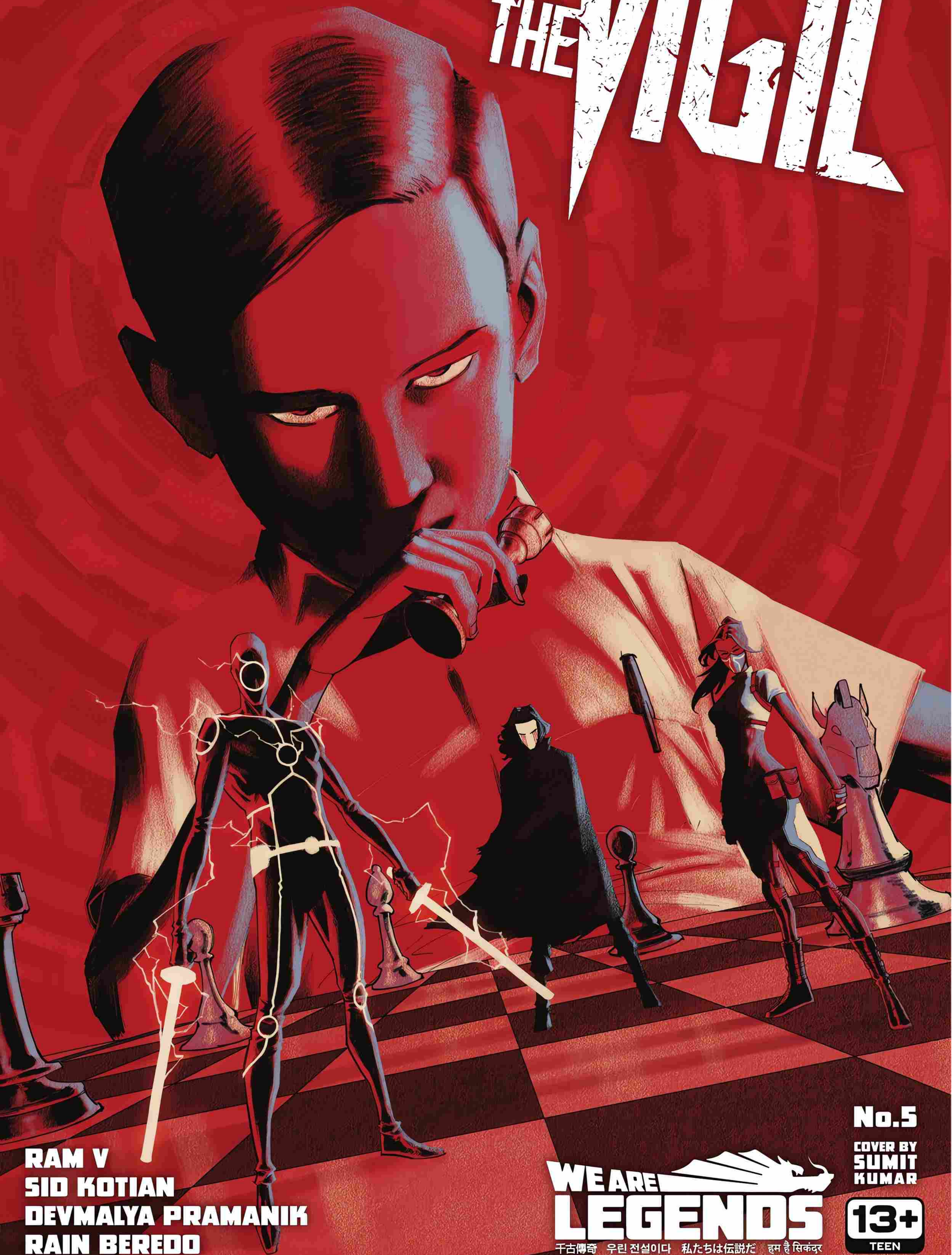




DAWN OF
DC

THE VIGIL



RAM V
SID KOTIAN
DEVMALYA PRAMANIK
RAIN BEREDO

WE ARE
LEGENDS

千古傳奇 우린 전설이다 私たちは伝説だ हम है सिकंदर

No.5

COVER BY
SUMIT
KUMAR

13+
TEEN



DAWN OF DC

MONTHLY
STARTING IN
SEPTEMBER

THE FLASH #1

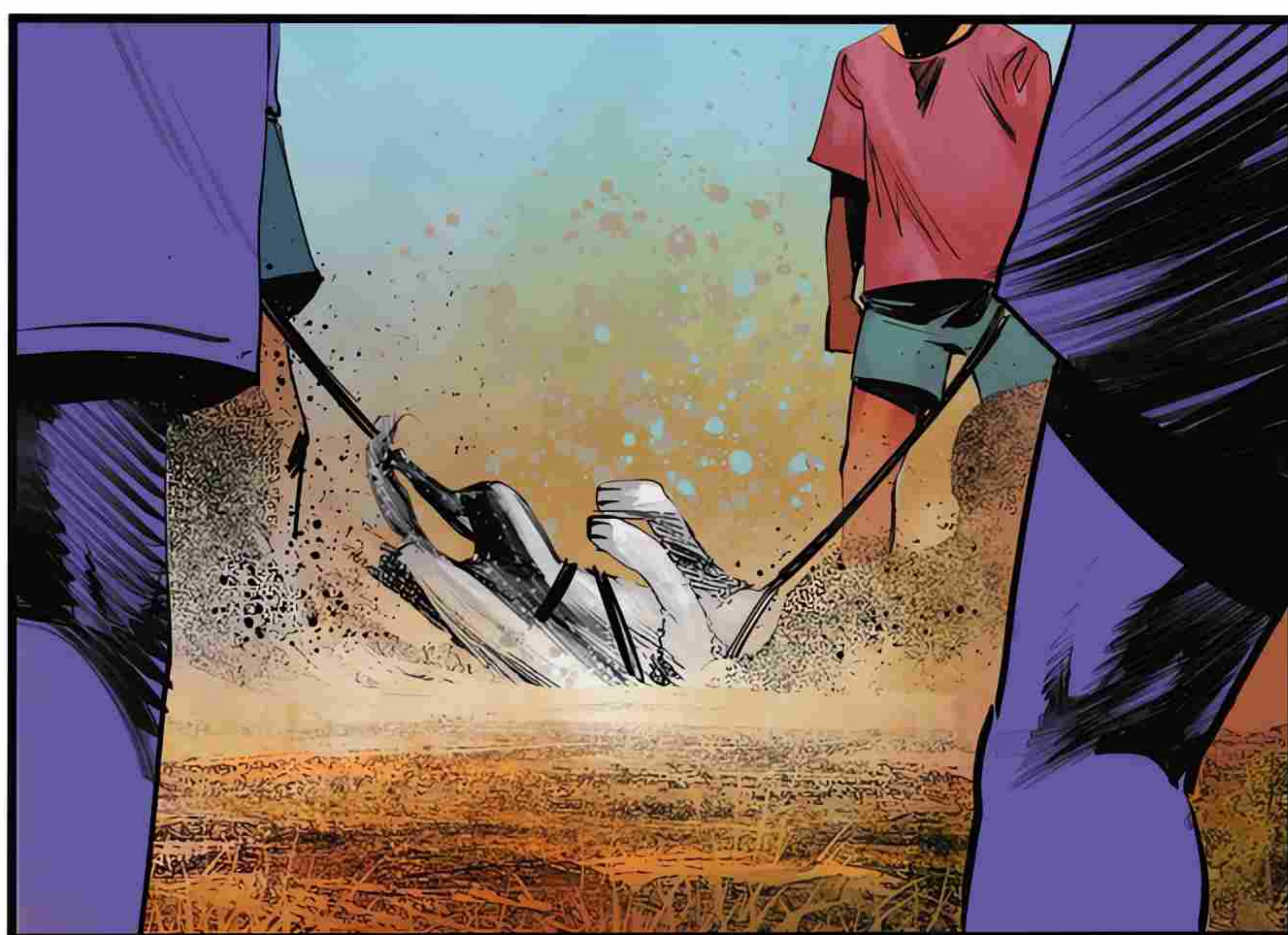
WALLY WEST RACES TOWARDS NEW WORLDS,
MYSTERIOUS ALLIES, AND MIND-SHATTERING THREATS!

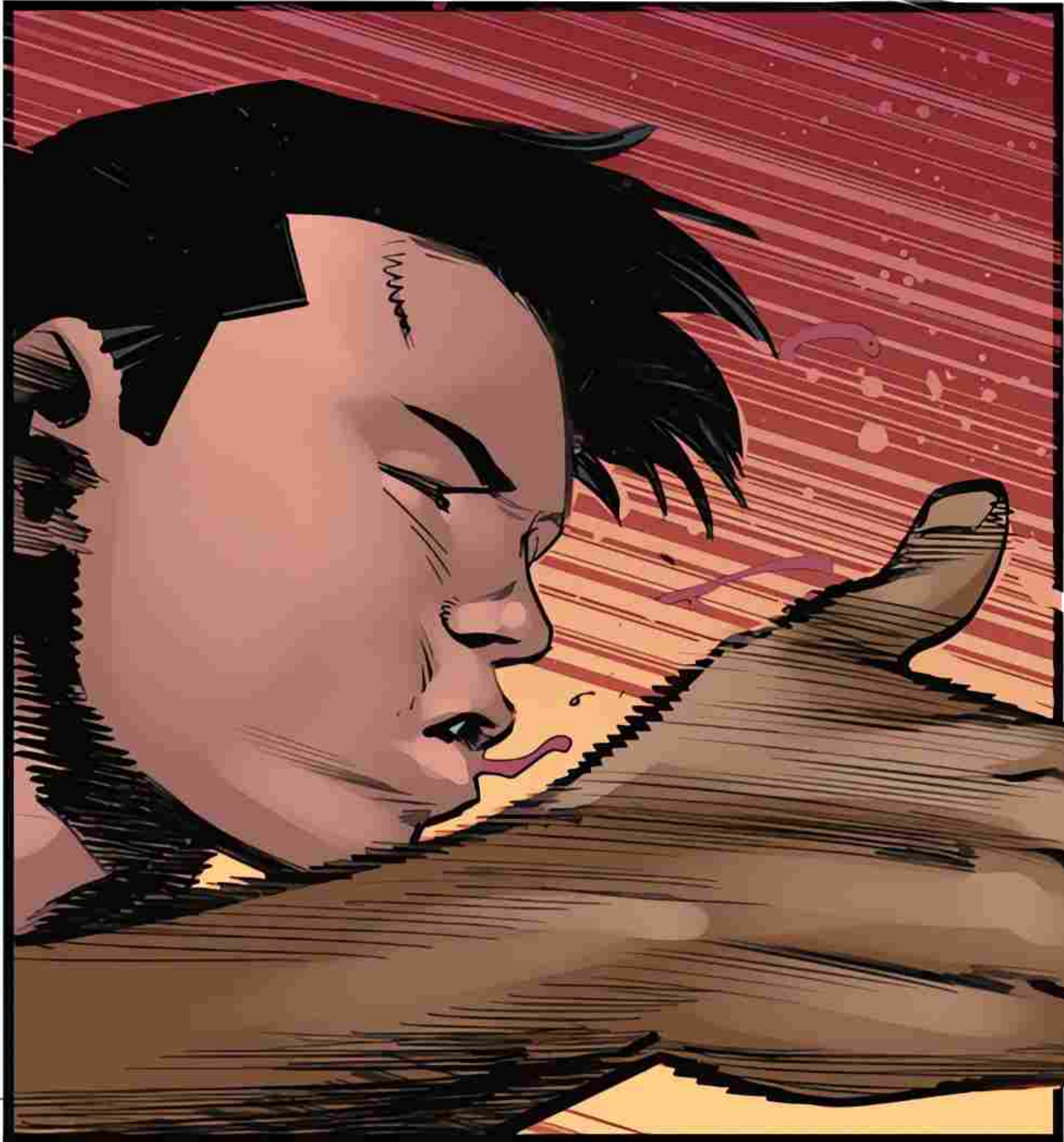
© & TM DC.

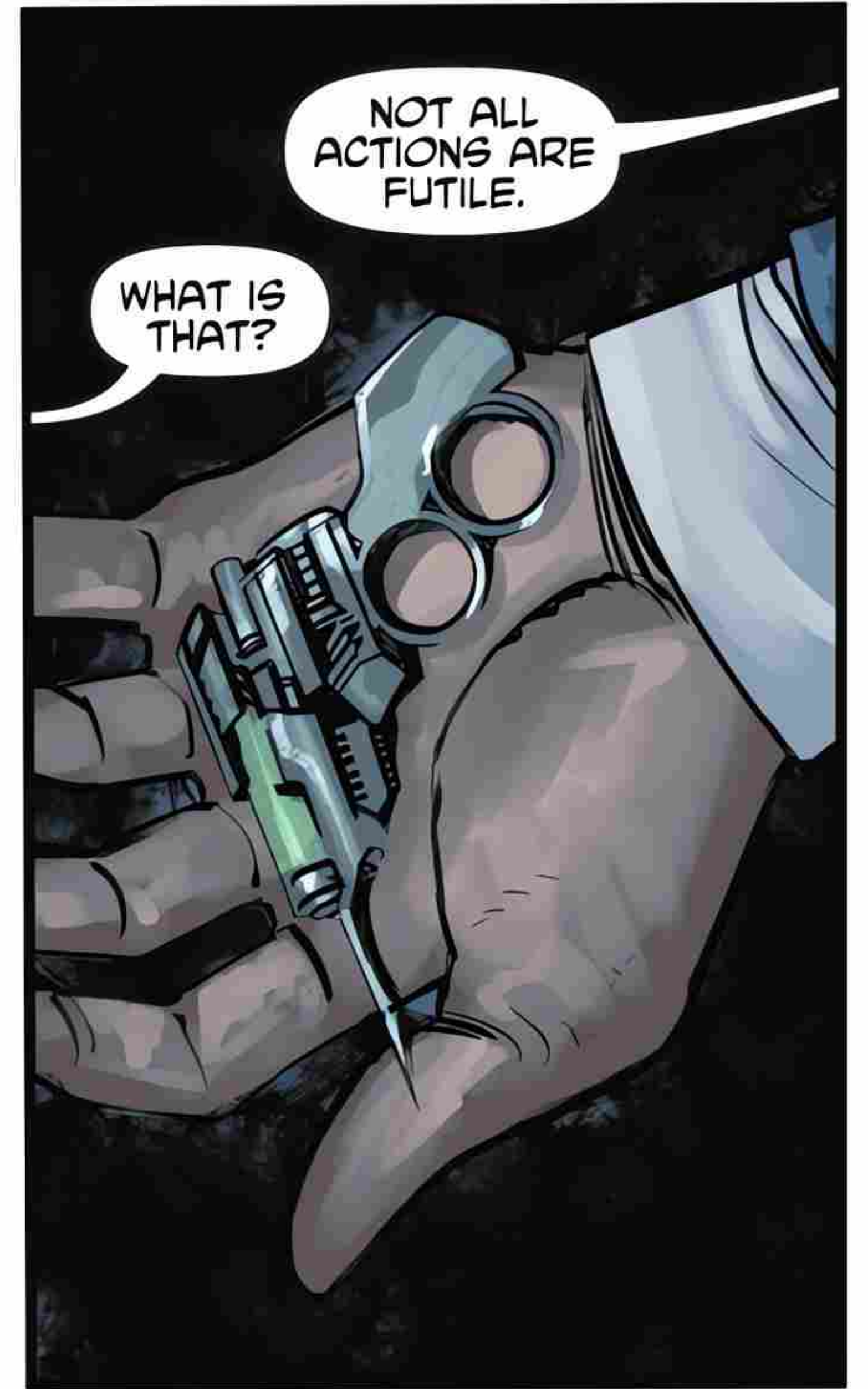
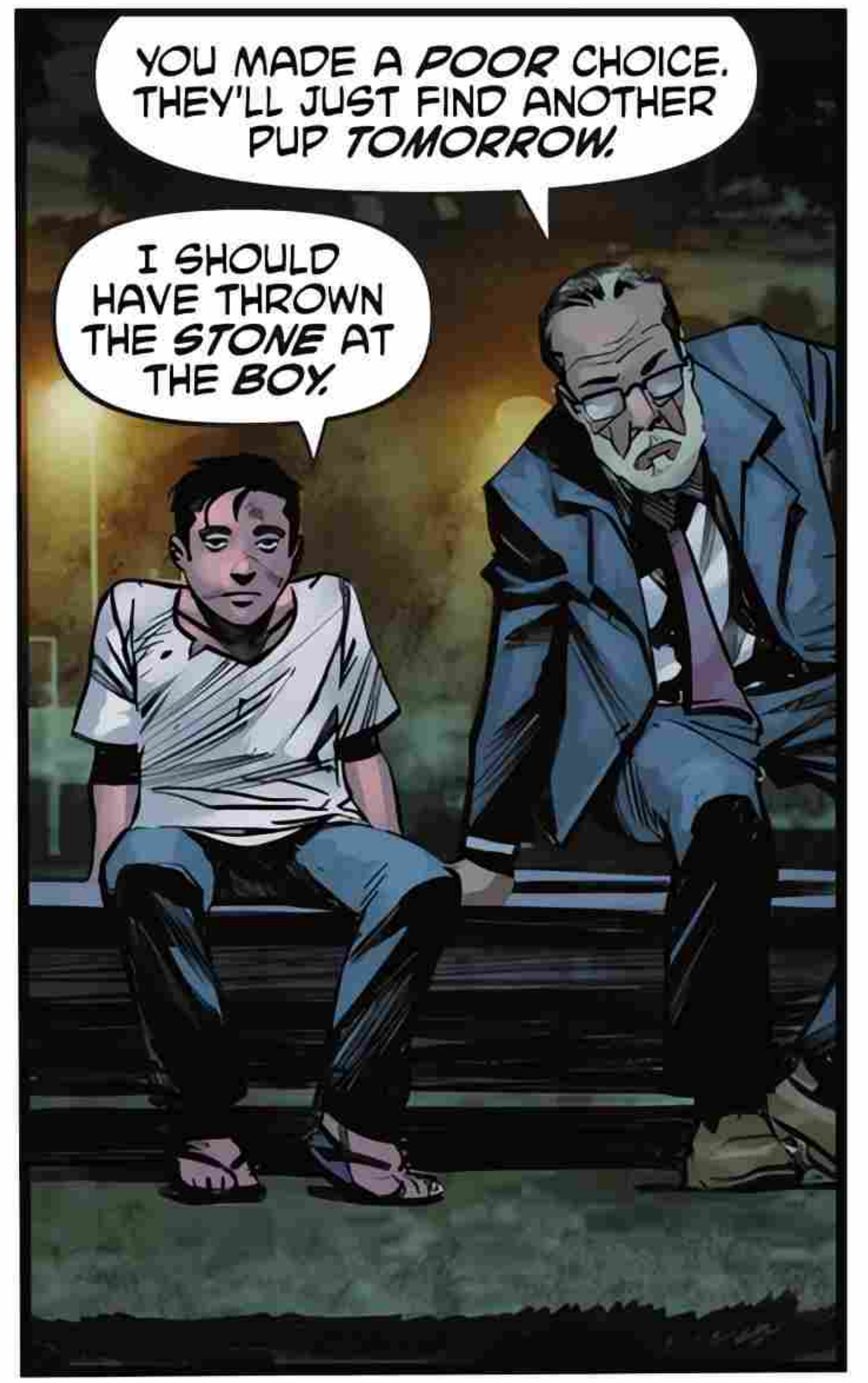
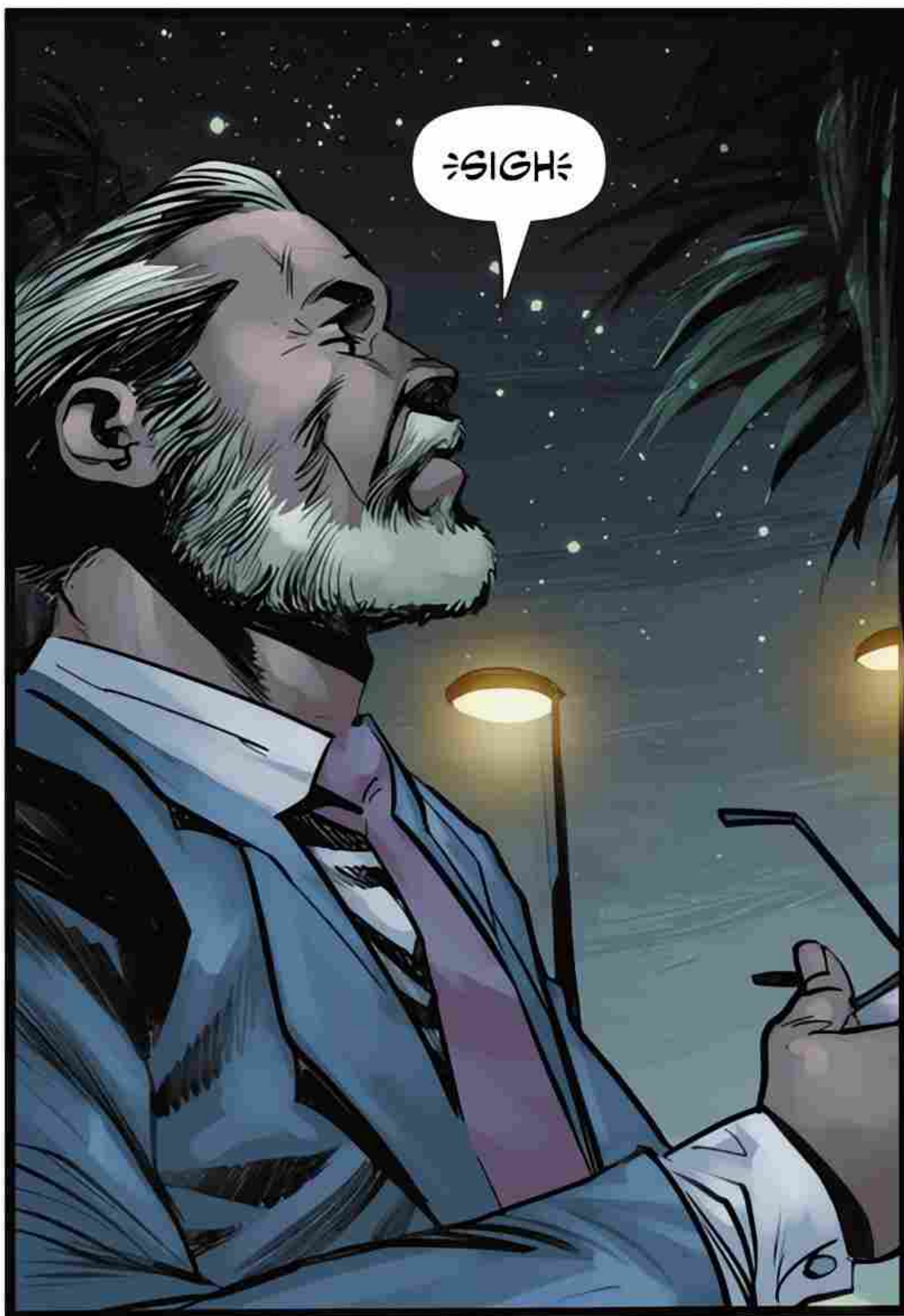
WRITTEN BY
SI SPURRIER

ART BY
MIKE DEODATO JR.

FORGING
THE FUTURE
ONE HERO
AT A TIME









THESE ARE CHOICES TO BE MADE *ONLY* BY THOSE WHO CAN *SEE* THEM.

IF YOU *CAN'T* SEE THEM THEN OF WHAT *USE* ARE YOU TO ME?

"I CAN BRING YOU TO CHOICES YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED."

"THE ONES THAT *REALLY* MATTER. THE ONES THAT ARE *NEVER* FUTILE."

DC COMICS
PROUDLY
PRESENTS:

THE **VIGIL**
IN

**CHECK
MATE**



RAM V
WRITER
SID KOTIAN
DEV PRAMANIK
ARTISTS
RAIN BEREDO
COLORIST

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERER
SUMIT KUMAR
COVER
NIMIT MALAVIA
ANAND RK
VARIANT COVERS

JAMES REID
ASSISTANT EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN
& **BEN MEARES**
EDITORS
BEN ABERNATHY
GROUP EDITOR

NOW.

I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE QUESTIONS. AND NO MATTER THE ANSWERS, I *ASSURE* YOU THEY WILL LEAD ONLY TO *MORE* DARKNESS.

I WOULD ASK YOU TO *TRUST* ME, BUT I'M AFRAID WE ARE *BEYOND* THAT NOW. MY ENEMY HAS MADE *SURE* OF THAT. *THIS* IS WHAT HE WANTS.



AND I AM LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO GIVE YOU THE *TRUTH*.



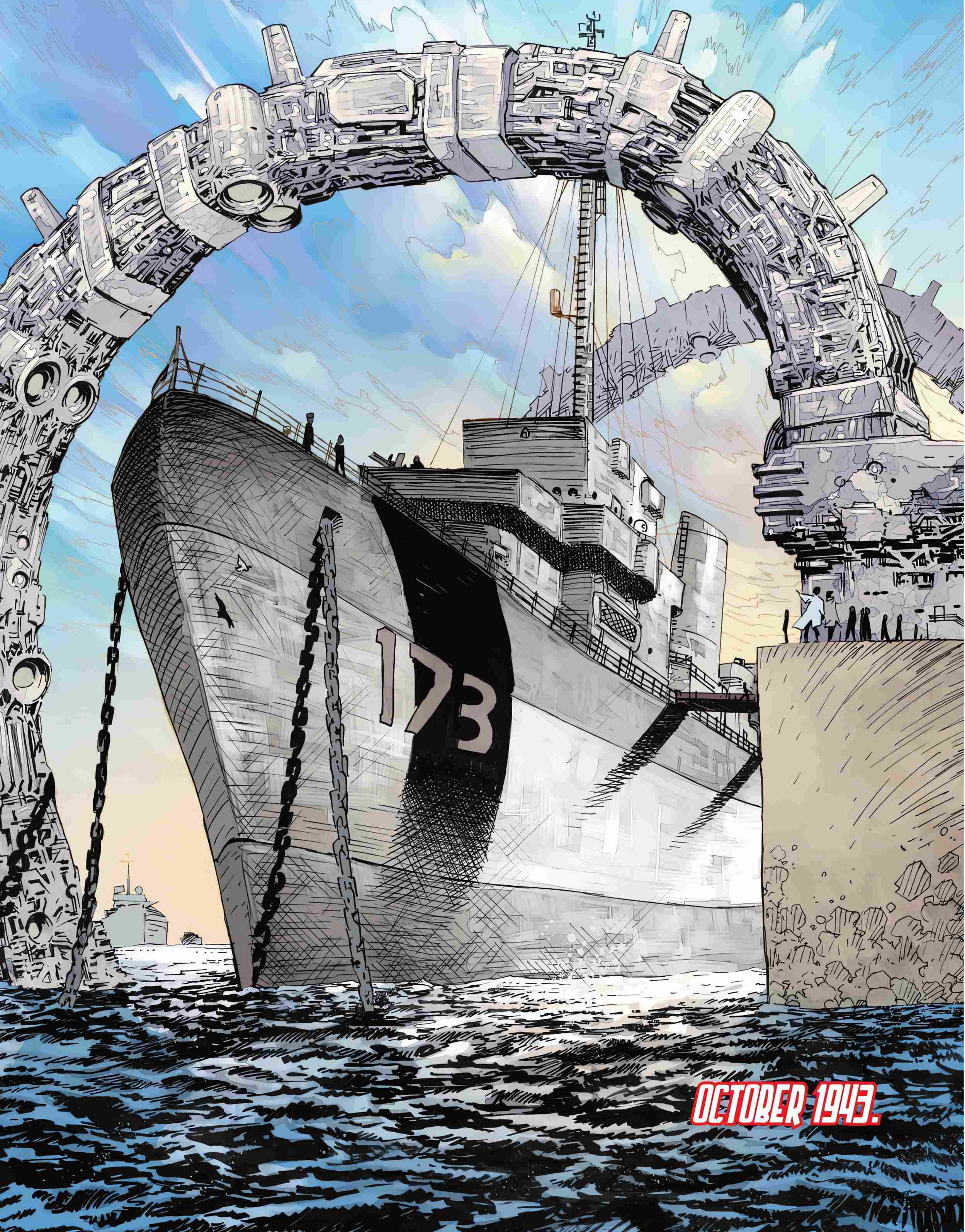
I WON'T CLAIM TO BE BLAMELESS. I HAVE MADE MISTAKES. BUT I HAVE SPENT AN *ETERNITY* TRYING TO FIX THEM.

SO I WANT YOU TO *LISTEN*. TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND. AND *THEN*... MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES.



"IT ALL BEGAN WITH
AN EXPERIMENT."

PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD. THE USS ELDRIDGE (DE-173).



OCTOBER 1943.

"IT WAS HANS KAMMLER'S OBSESSION WITH FIELD THEORY APPLICATIONS THAT SPARKED THE NAZI SECRET WEAPONS PROGRAM.

"THE ALLIES WERE PLAYING CATCH-UP AND HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER *INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUPS* IN THE SEARCH FOR A REPLY.



"I WAS SOMEWHAT OF A *RARITY* WHEN THEY CAME CALLING.

"A *CHILD PRODIGY* TURNED GIFTED RESEARCHER FROM COIMBATORE ON AN APPLIED-PHYSICS FELLOWSHIP AT CAMBRIDGE.



"I LEAPT AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN CUTTING-EDGE WORK FORGING THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD ITSELF.

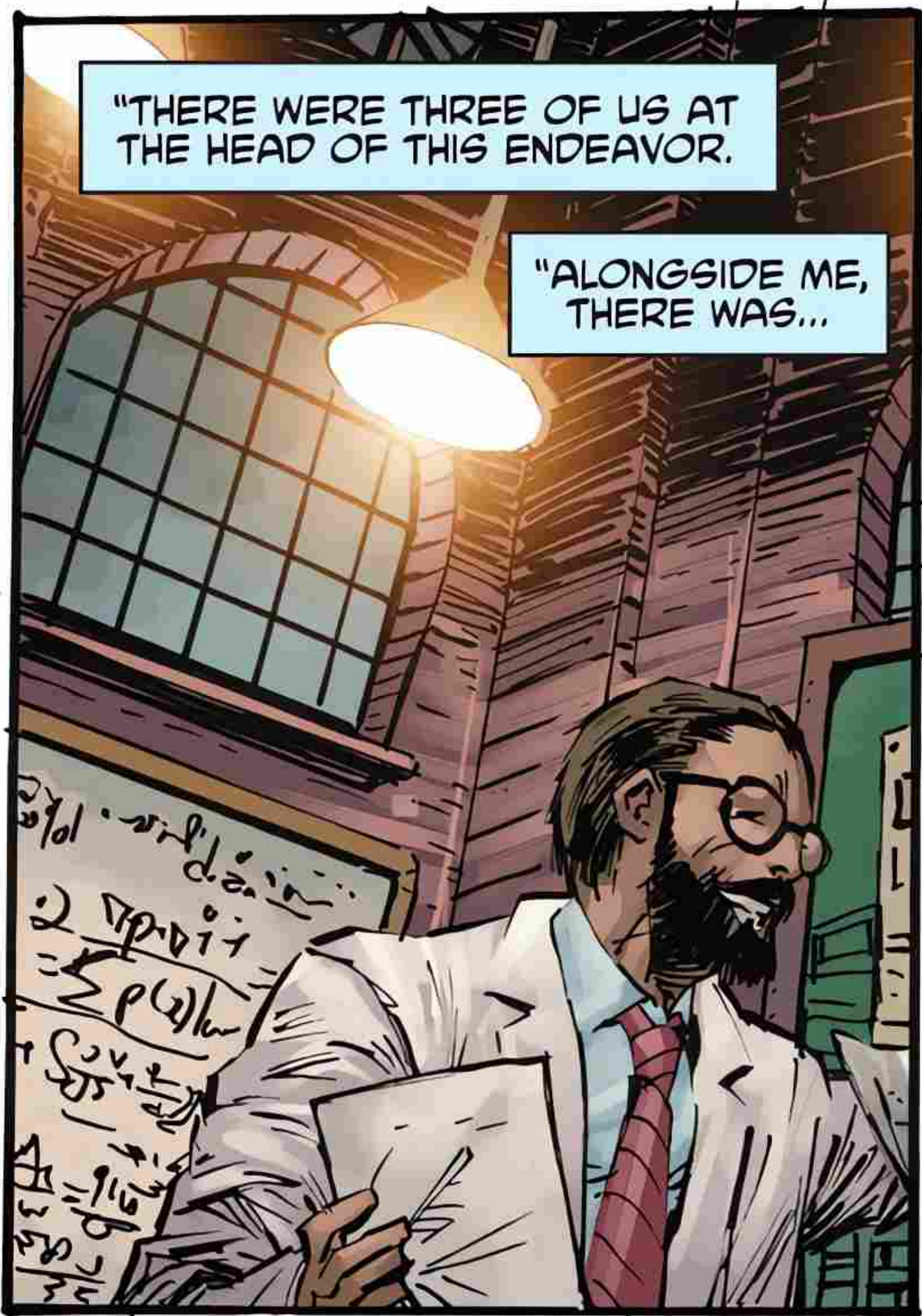
"MY NAIVE *ENTHUSIASM*, PERHAPS, THE FIRST OF MY MISTAKES.



"THE EXPERIMENT HAD BEGUN AS AN ATTEMPT AT CLOAKING, BUT HAD TURNED INTO SOMETHING MORE.

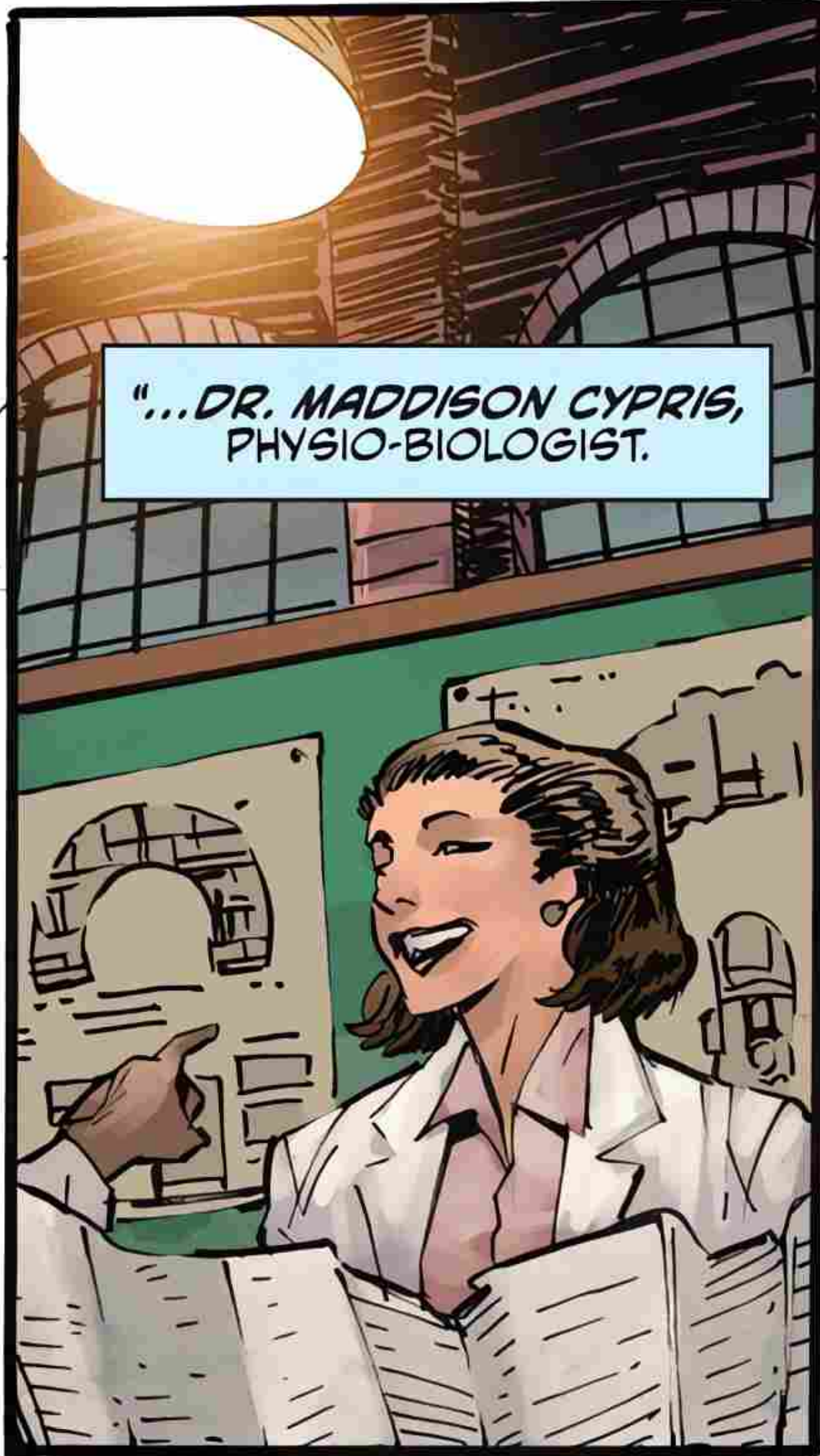
"COULD WE, EVEN MOMENTARILY SHIFT AN *ENTIRE SHIP* OUT OF *DIMENSIONAL SPACE*?"



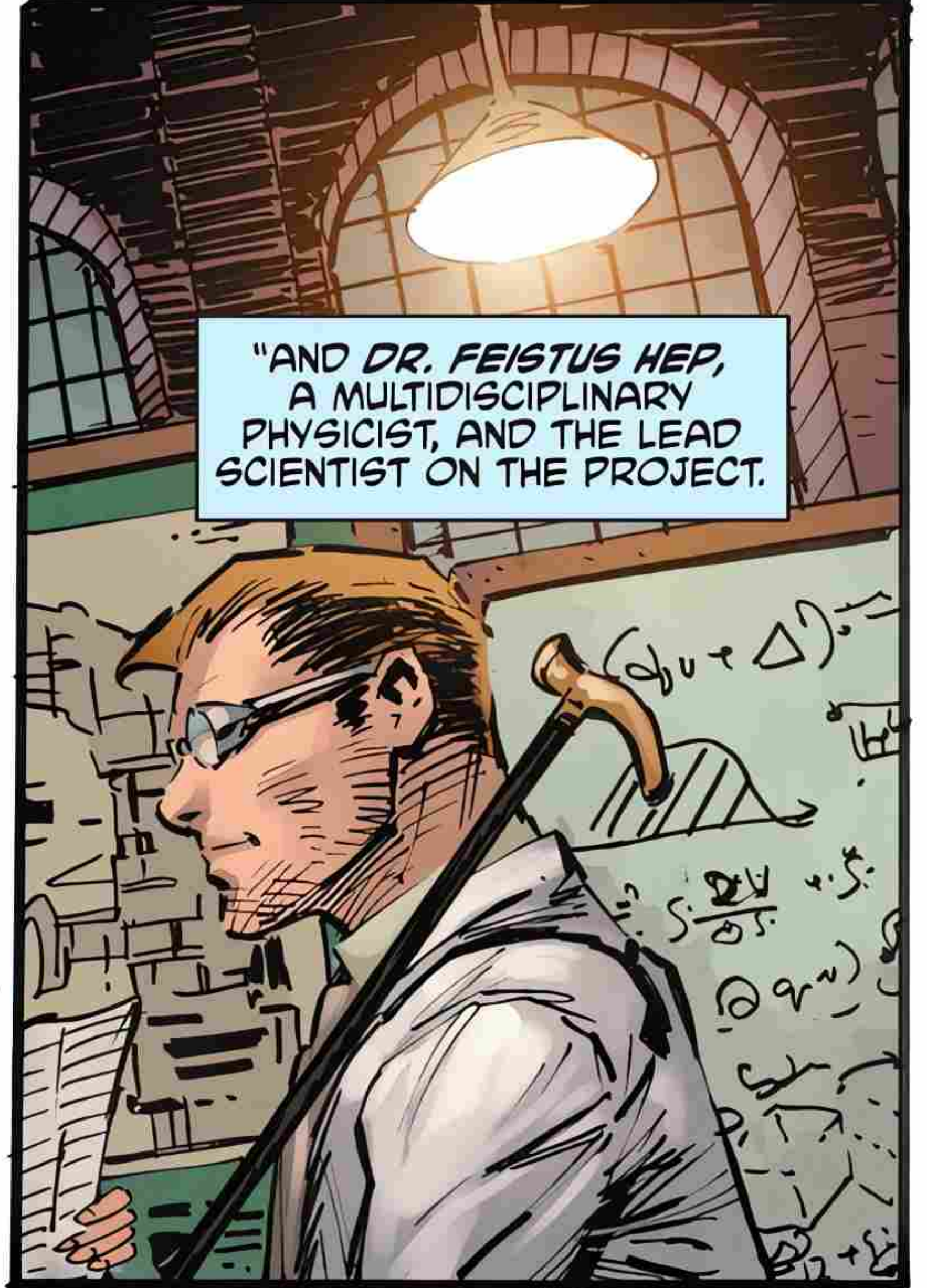


"THERE WERE THREE OF US AT THE HEAD OF THIS ENDEAVOR.

"ALONGSIDE ME, THERE WAS..."



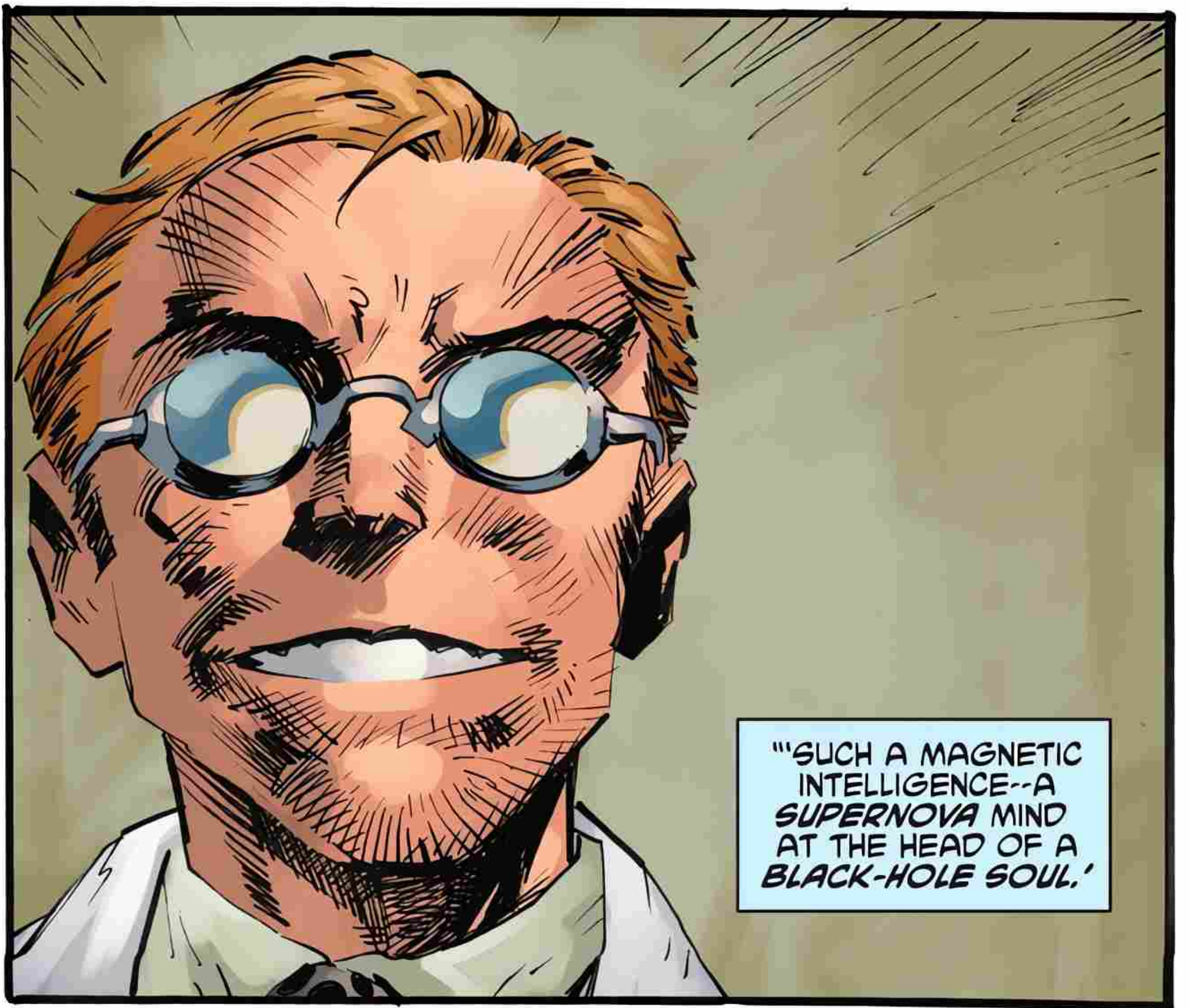
"...DR. MADDISON CYPRIS, PHYSIO-BIOLOGIST.



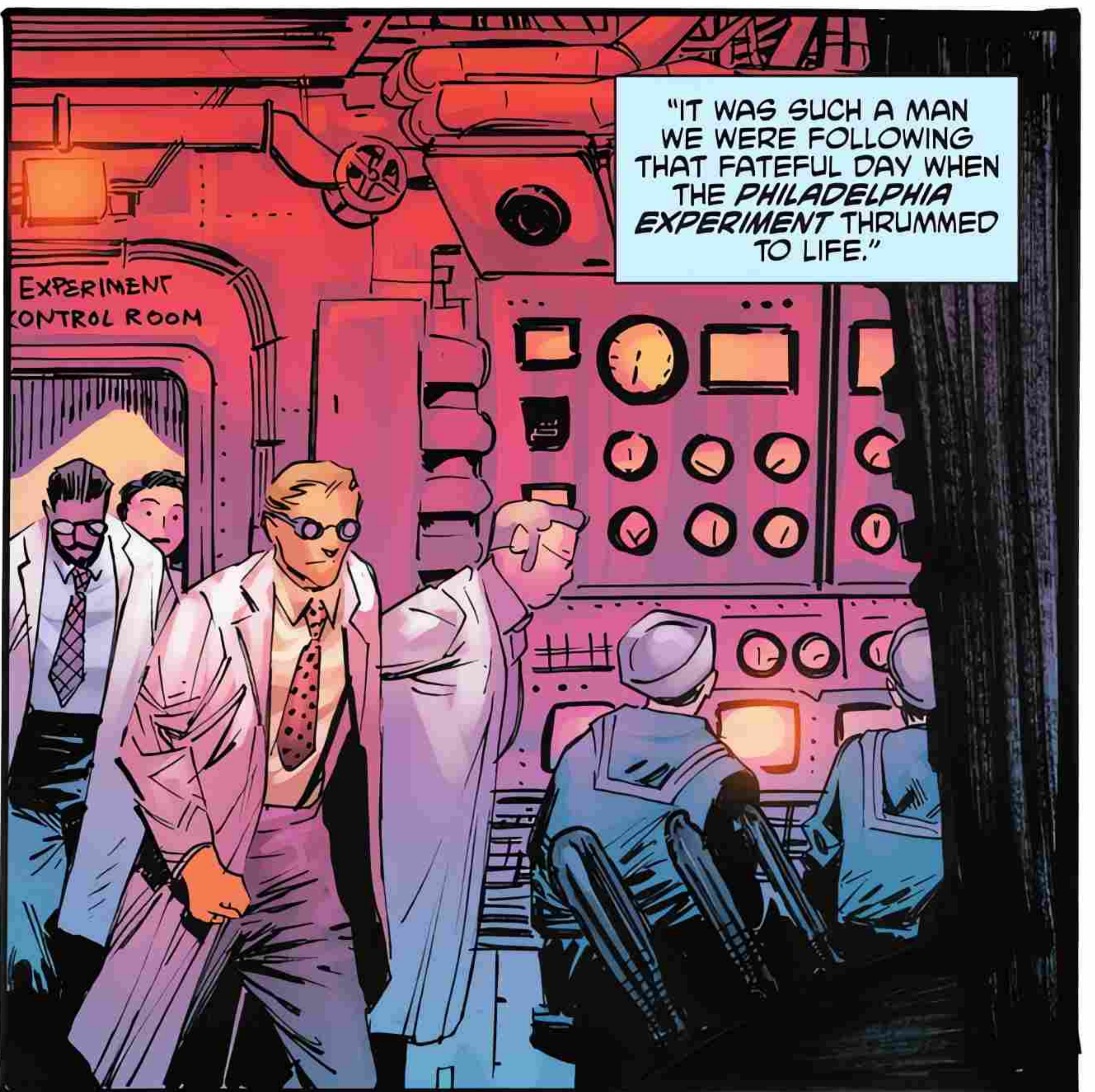
"AND DR. FEISTUS HEP, A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PHYSICIST, AND THE LEAD SCIENTIST ON THE PROJECT.



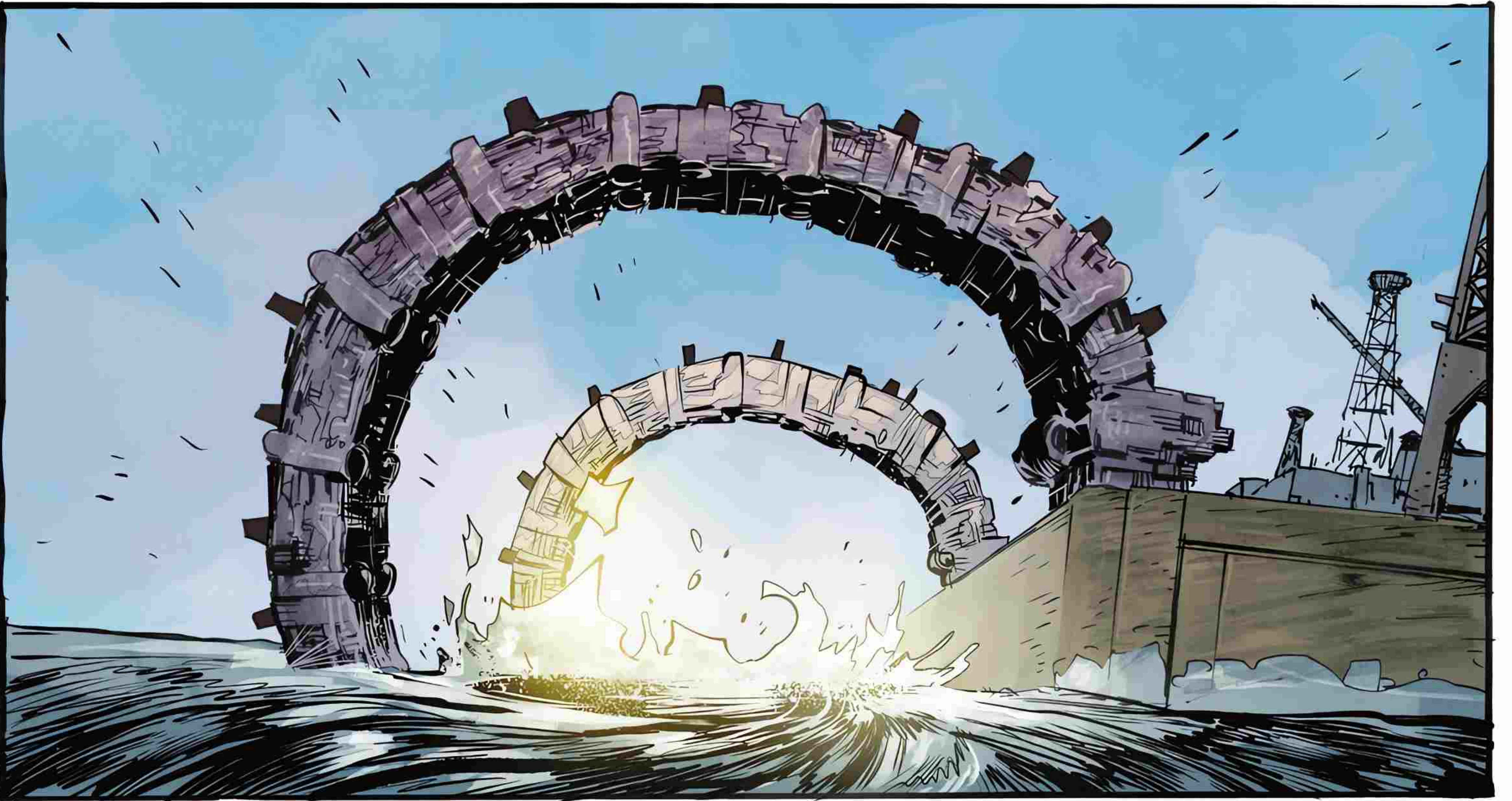
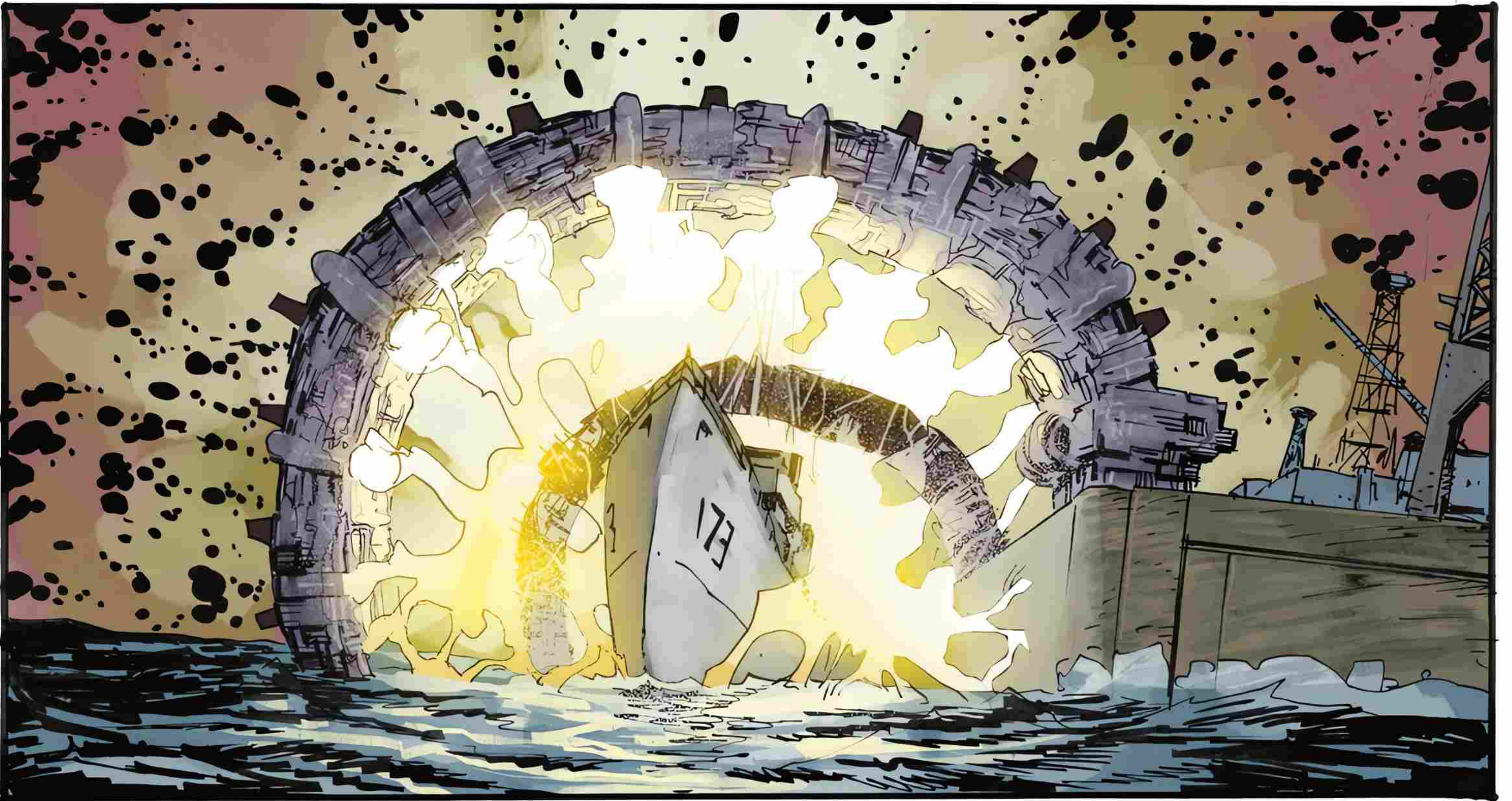
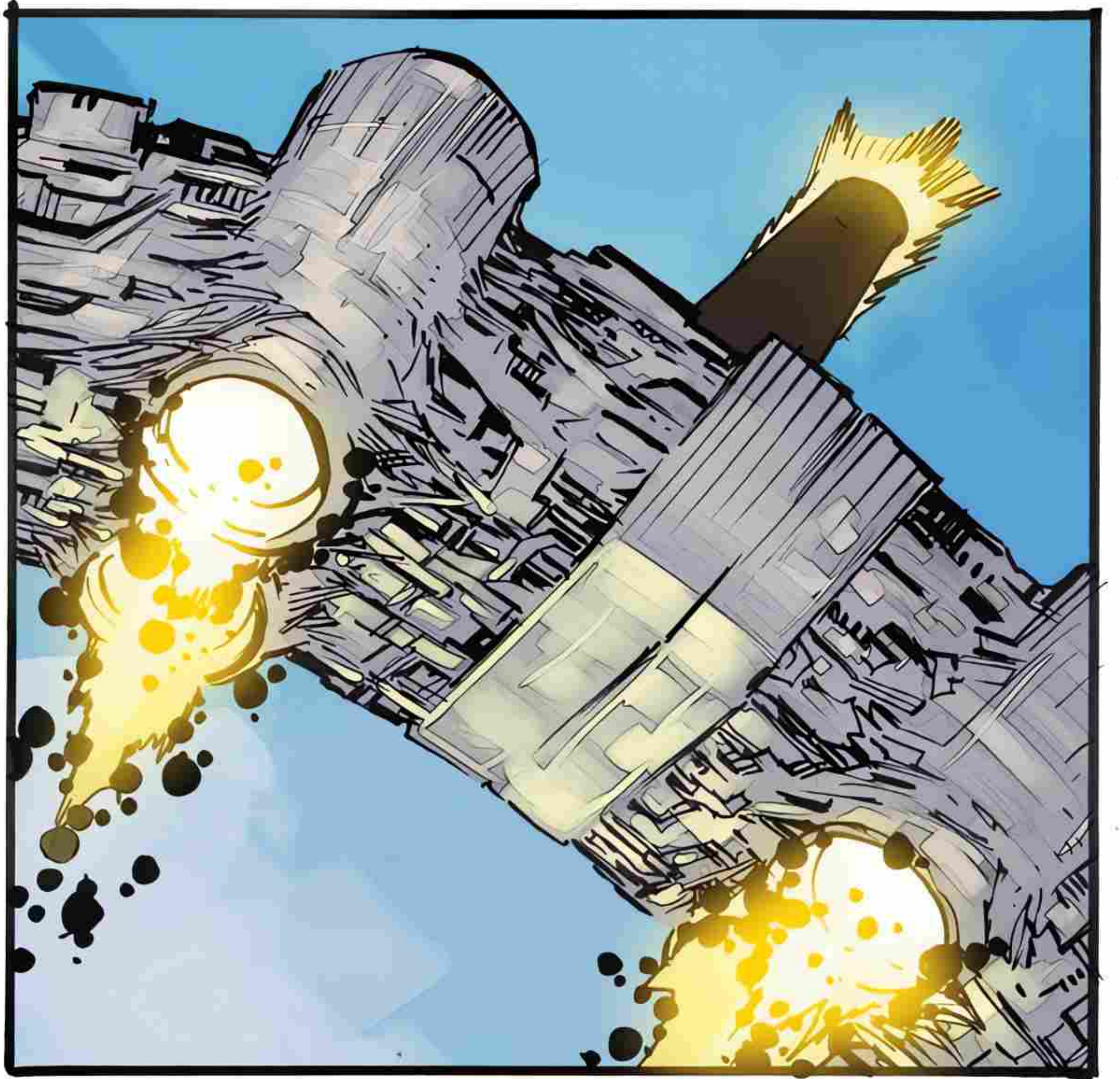
"MADDISON AND HEP WERE A COUPLE AT THE TIME. LATER, SHE WOULD DESCRIBE HIM BETTER THAN I EVER COULD.

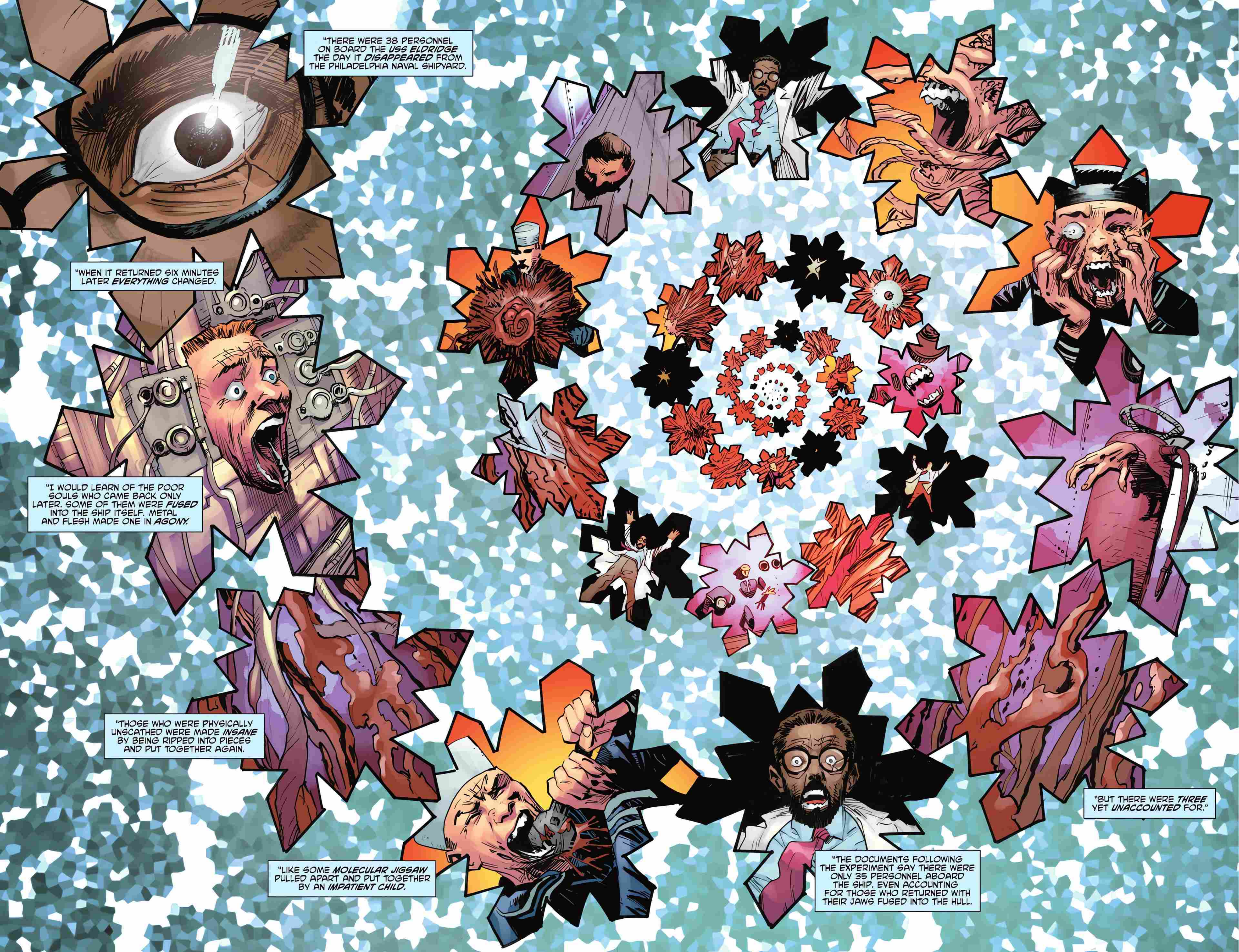


"SUCH A MAGNETIC INTELLIGENCE--A SUPERNOVA MIND AT THE HEAD OF A BLACK-HOLE SOUL."



"IT WAS SUCH A MAN WE WERE FOLLOWING THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT THRUMMED TO LIFE."





"THERE WERE 38 PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE *USS ELDREDGE* THE DAY IT *DISAPPEARED* FROM THE PHILADELPHIA NAVAL SHIPYARD.

"WHEN IT RETURNED SIX MINUTES LATER *EVERYTHING* CHANGED.

"I WOULD LEARN OF THE POOR SOULS WHO CAME BACK ONLY LATER. SOME OF THEM WERE *FUSED* INTO THE SHIP ITSELF. METAL AND FLESH MADE ONE IN *AGONY*.

"THOSE WHO WERE PHYSICALLY UNSCATHED WERE MADE *INSANE* BY BEING RIPPED INTO PIECES AND PUT TOGETHER AGAIN.

"LIKE SOME *MOLECULAR JIGSAW* PULLED APART AND PUT TOGETHER BY AN *IMPATIENT CHILD*.

"THE DOCUMENTS FOLLOWING THE EXPERIMENT SAY THERE WERE ONLY 35 PERSONNEL ABOARD THE SHIP. EVEN ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE WHO RETURNED WITH THEIR JAWS FUSED INTO THE HULL.

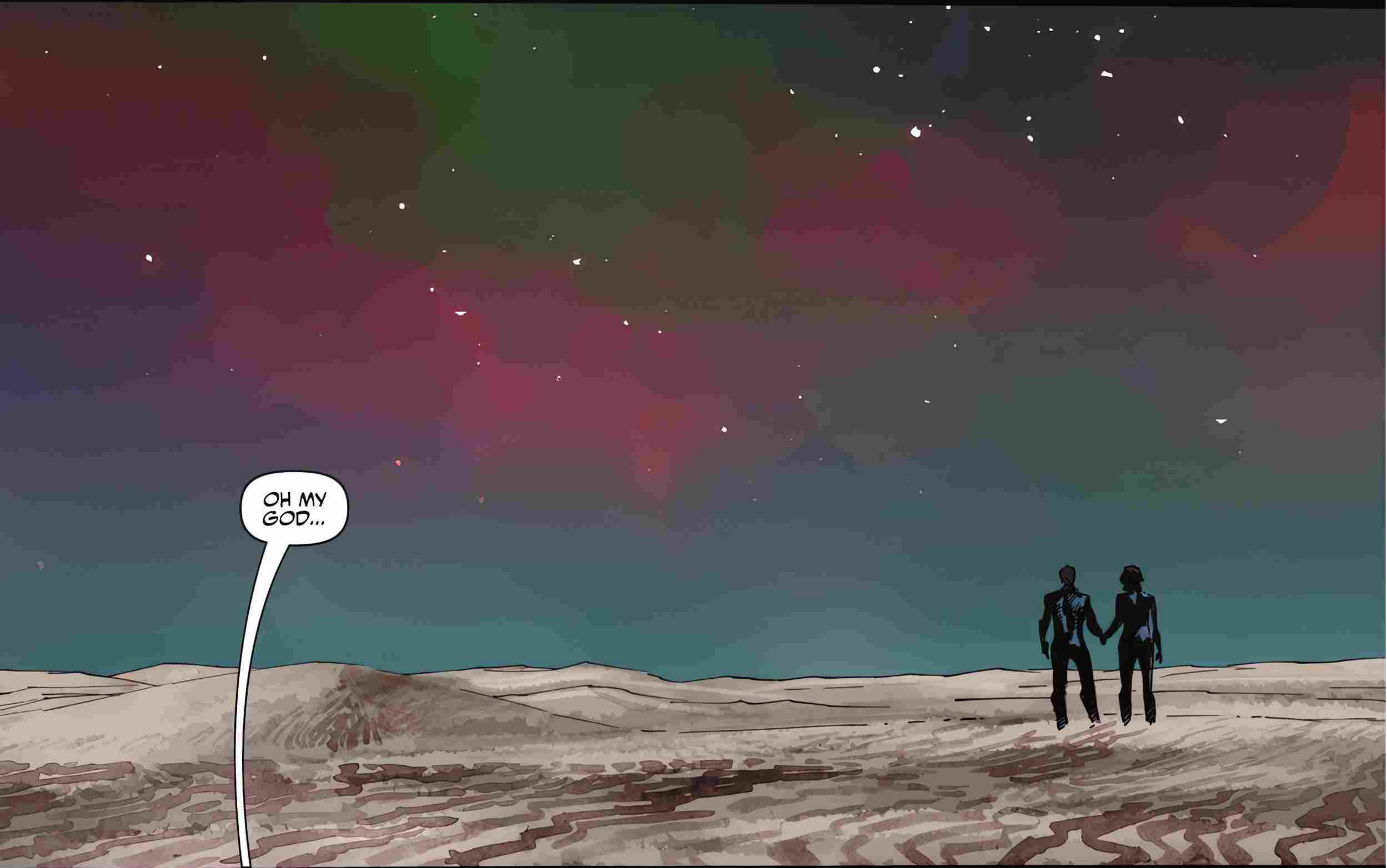
"BUT THERE WERE *THREE* YET *UNACCOUNTED FOR*."



"THERE WERE THREE WHO *NEVER* RETURNED."



≡GASP≡

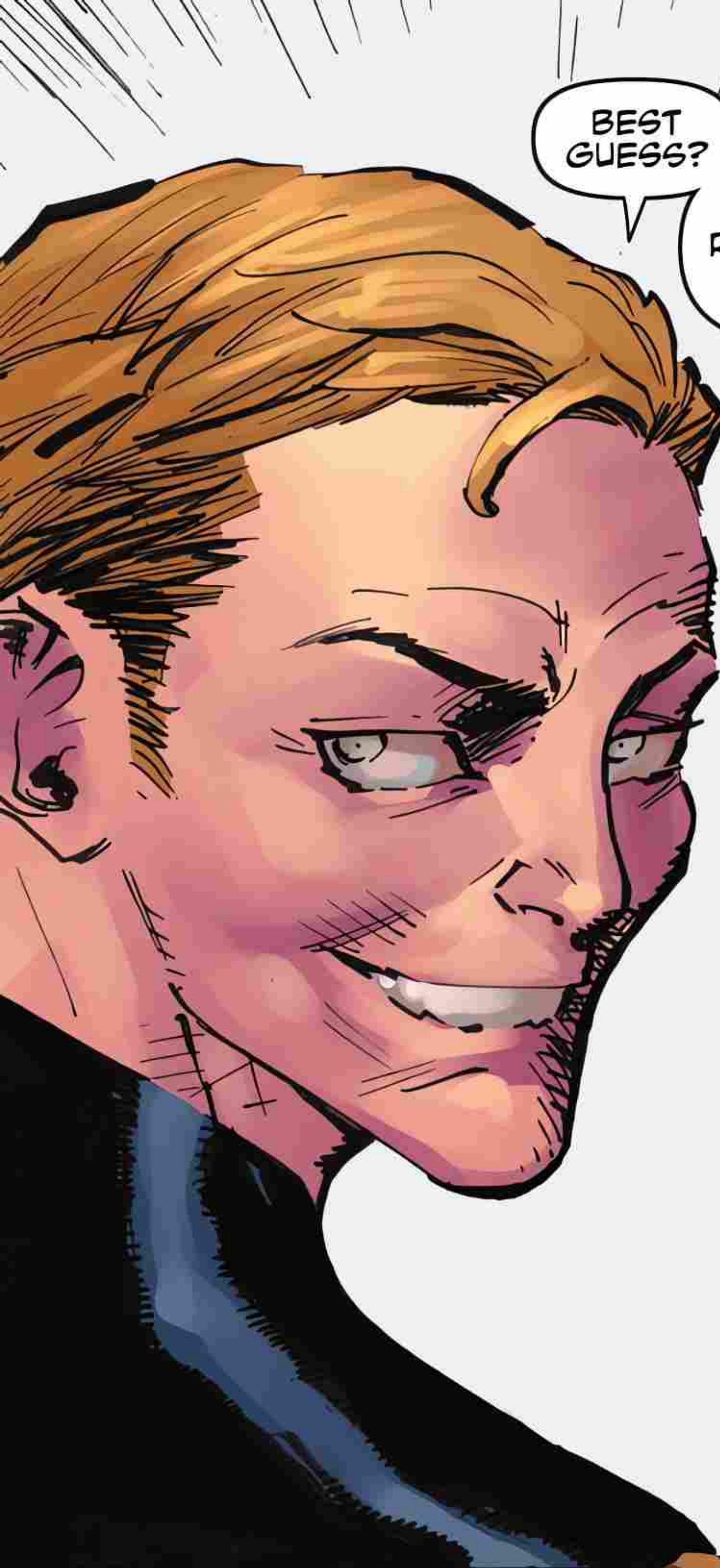


OH MY GOD...



AH, YOU'RE WITH US, DOCTOR! WELCOME...

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?



BEST GUESS?

WE FUMBLERD THE RECONSTITUTION PROTOCOLS. I MEAN...

... THAT PART WAS A GAMBLE AT BEST. UNCERTAINTY CORRIDOR AND ALL THAT.

SO WHEN THE ROULETTE WHEEL STOPPED...

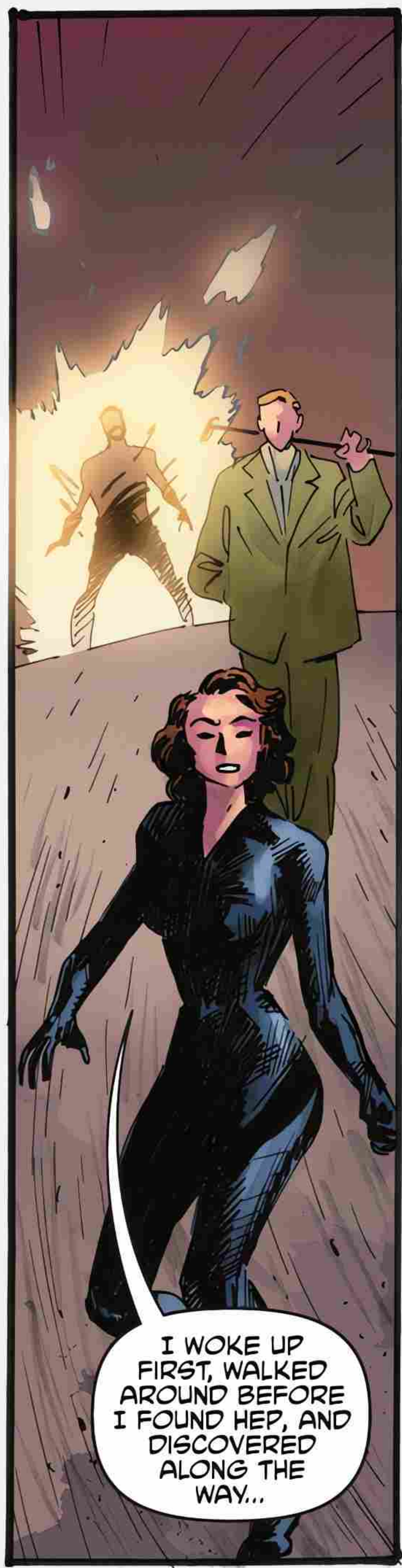
... WE WERE RECONSTITUTED IN A DIMENSIONAL SPACE OUTSIDE OUR OWN.

THAT MEANS...



THE RULES ARE ALL DIFFERENT HERE. NOTHING MAKES SENSE.

BUT WE COULD SPEND ETERNITY TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL.



HOW'RE YOU--

WITH THOUGHT!

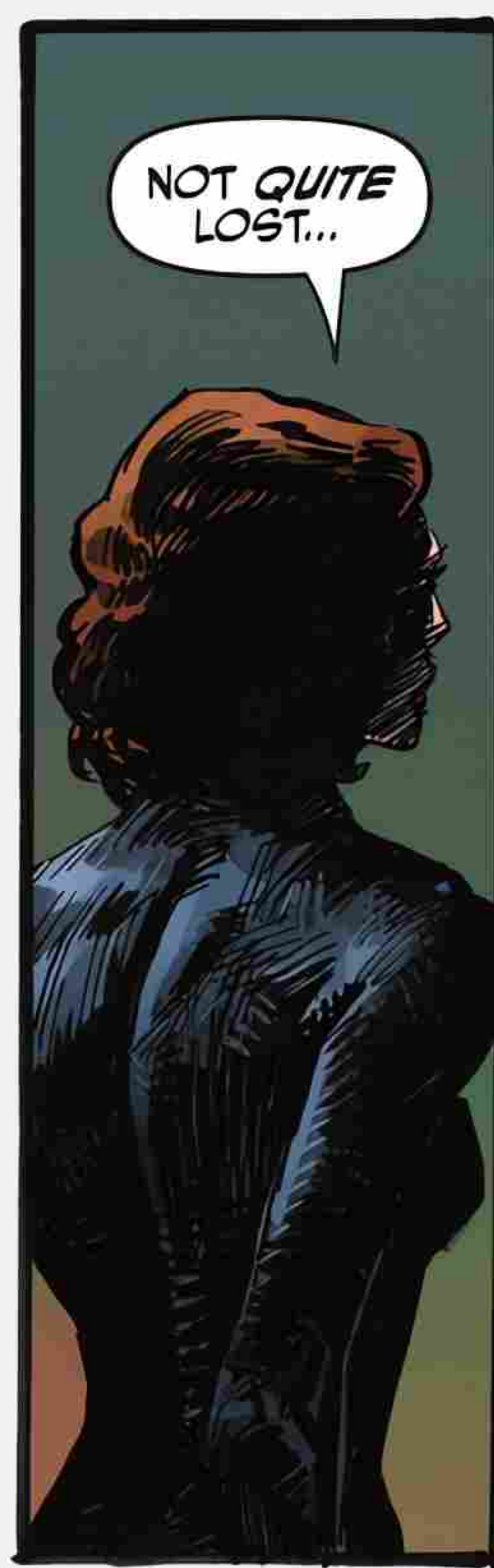
A MANIFESTED REALITY... DRIVEN BY IDEATION. JUST LIKE THAT.



EVERY SCIENTIST'S WET DREAM!

HEP... YOU'RE NOT THINKING THIS THROUGH. WHAT IF WE NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET BACK?

WHAT IF WE'RE LOST FOREVER?



NOT QUITE LOST...

I WOKE UP FIRST, WALKED AROUND BEFORE I FOUND HEP, AND DISCOVERED ALONG THE WAY...



... THAT WE
ARE NOT THE
FIRST TO SET
FOOT IN THIS
PLACE.



AT FIRST GLANCE,
PARTS OF IT LOOK
LIKE A *NEURAL*
WAVE READER.

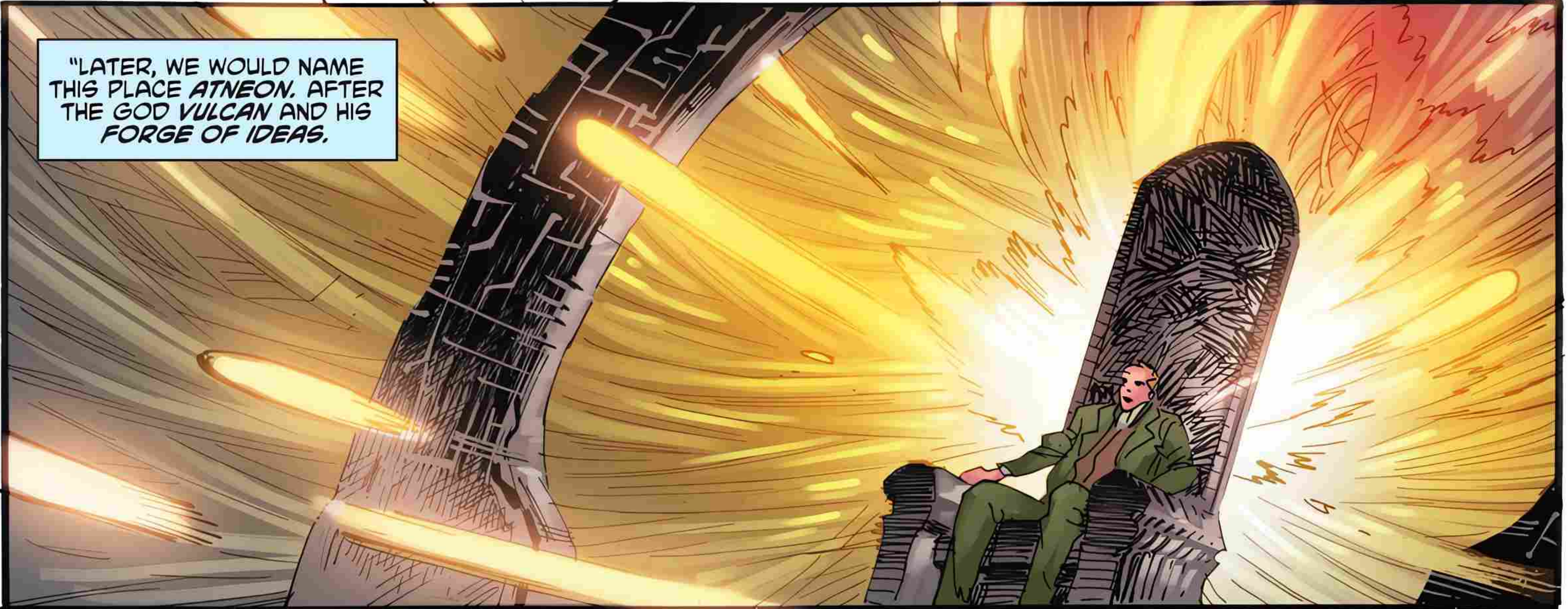
THETA-WAVE
AMPLIFICATION
SETUP HERE.



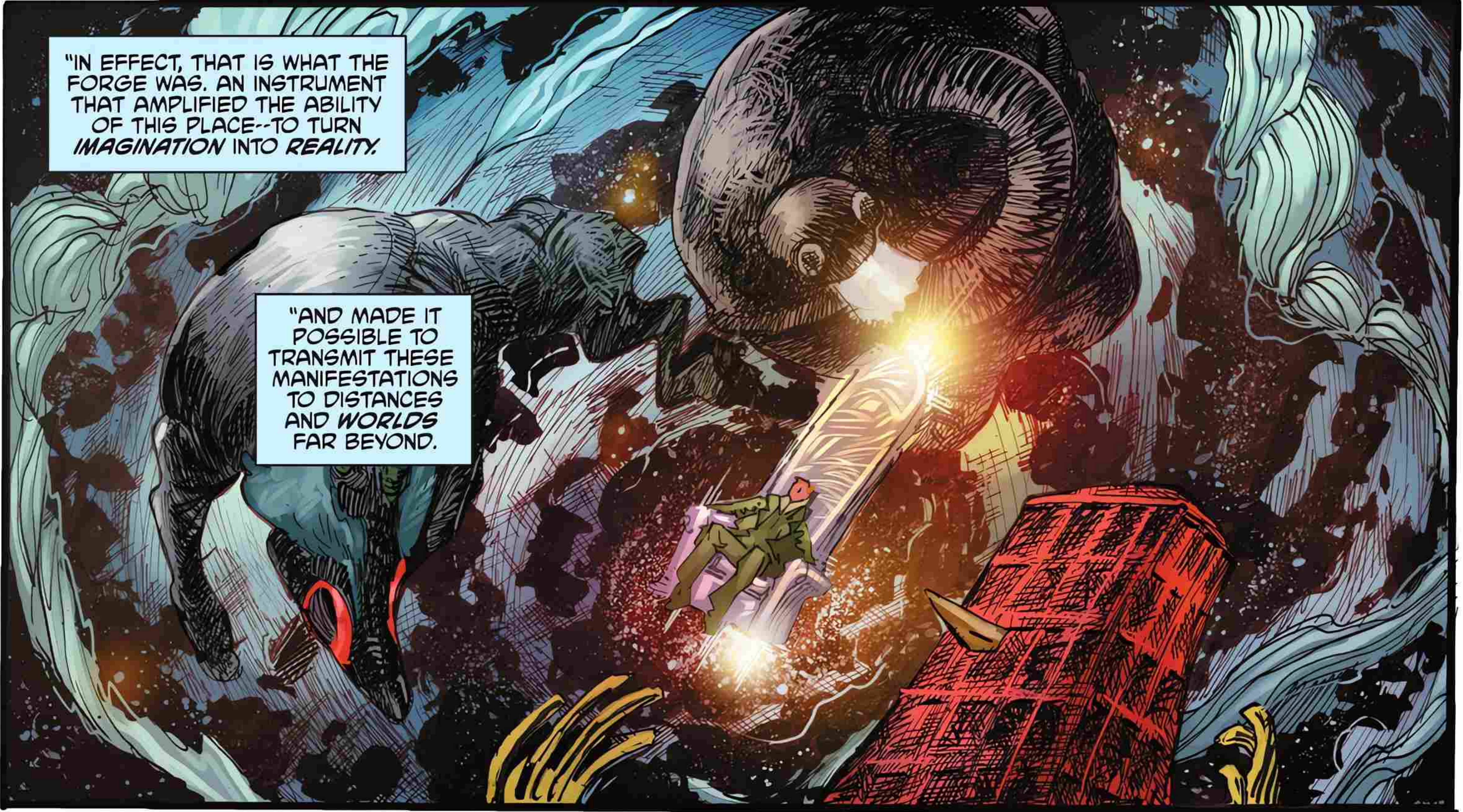
TRANSMITTERS...
THE TOWERS ARE
TRANSMITTERS.



A LONG-
DISTANCE PROJECTOR
FOR BRAIN WAVES?
IDEAS?



"LATER, WE WOULD NAME THIS PLACE *ATNEON*. AFTER THE GOD *VULCAN* AND HIS *FORGE OF IDEAS*.



"IN EFFECT, THAT IS WHAT THE FORGE WAS. AN INSTRUMENT THAT AMPLIFIED THE ABILITY OF THIS PLACE--TO TURN *IMAGINATION INTO REALITY*.

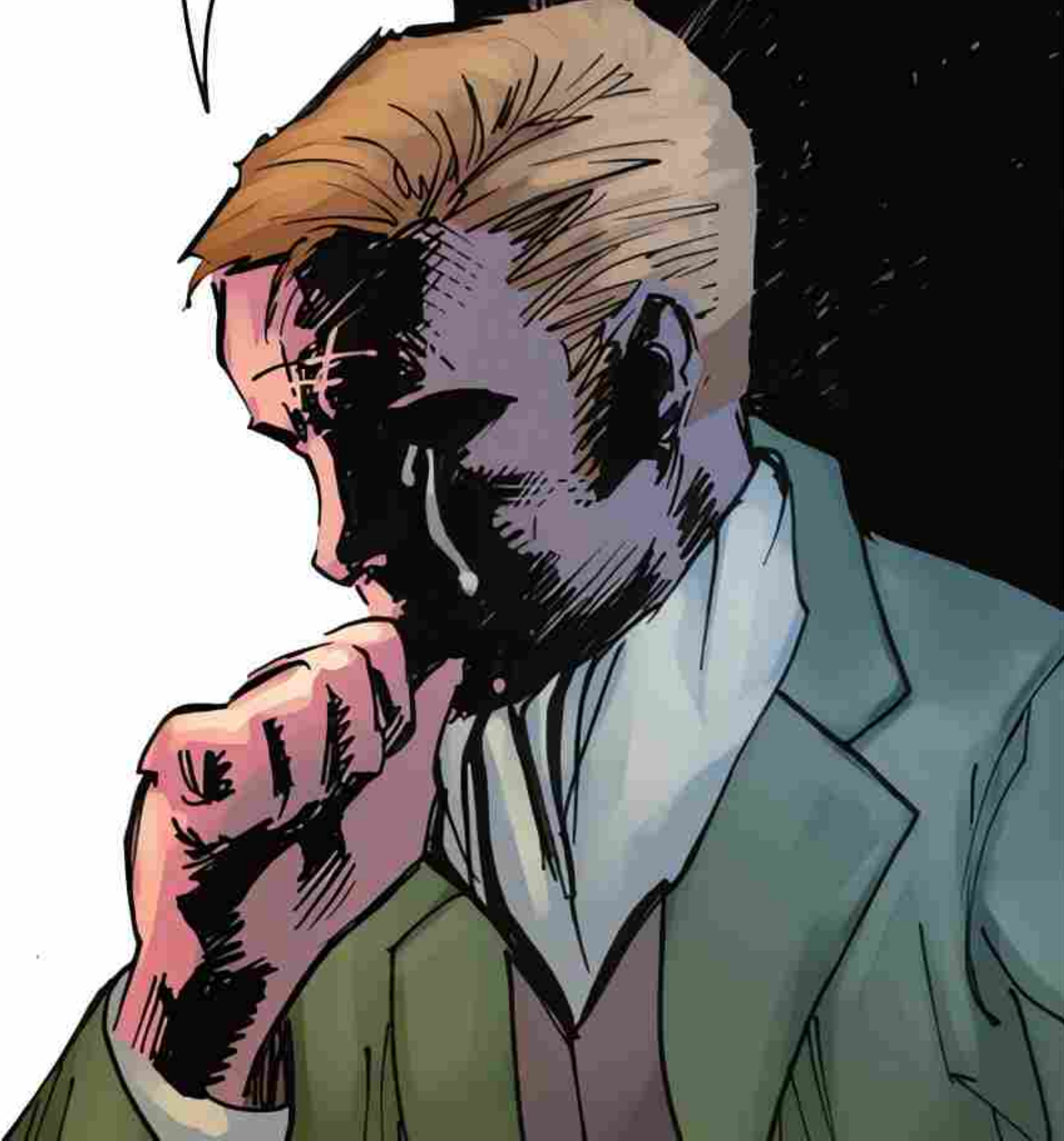
"AND MADE IT POSSIBLE TO TRANSMIT THESE MANIFESTATIONS TO DISTANCES AND *WORLDS FAR BEYOND*.

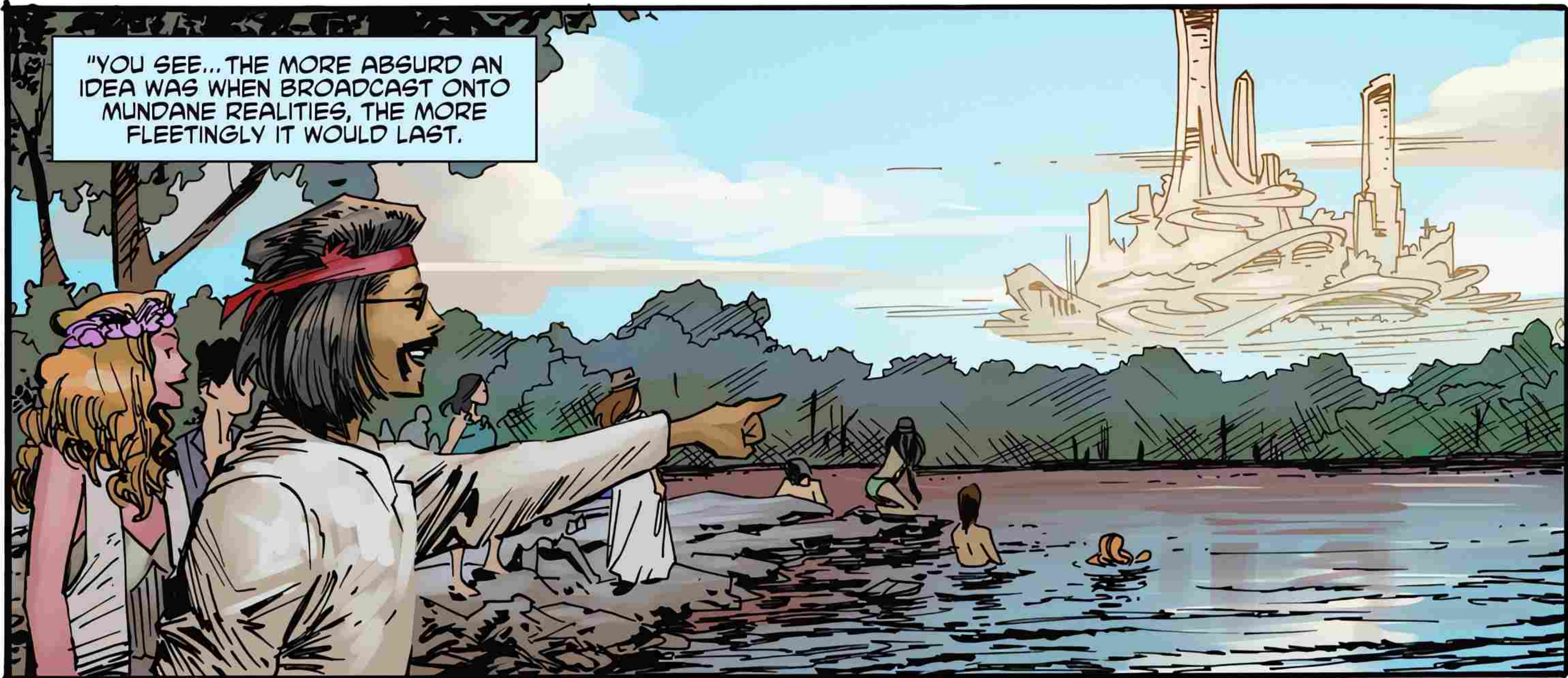


"WE WERE GODS, SITTING IN THE LAP OF CREATION, MANIFESTING IDEAS INTO WORLDS.

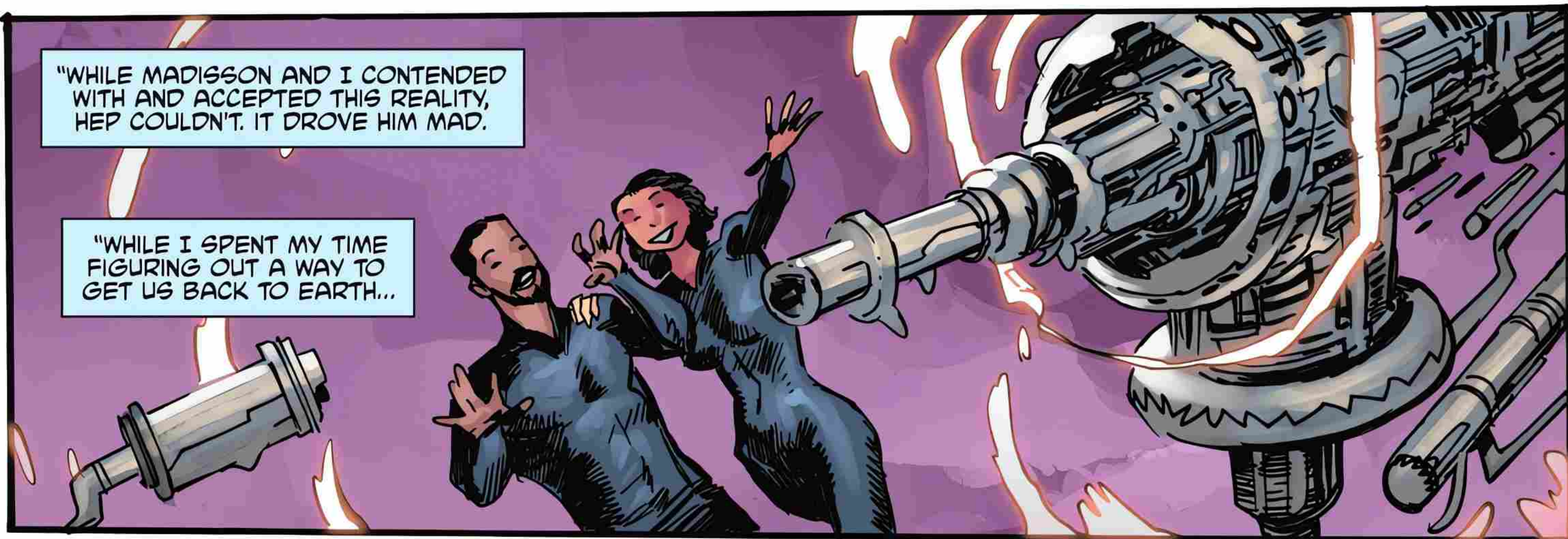
"BUT EVEN GODS ARE CONSTRAINED BY ETERNAL TRUTHS. BY ENTROPY AND DECAY AND THE BALANCES OF EXISTENCE BEYOND QUESTIONING."

IT IS 1965 ON EARTH. I MANIFESTED A TRUE UTOPIA, BUT IT ONLY LASTED FOR EIGHT MILLISECONDS.





"YOU SEE... THE MORE ABSURD AN IDEA WAS WHEN BROADCAST ONTO MUNDANE REALITIES, THE MORE FLEETINGLY IT WOULD LAST.



"WHILE MADISSON AND I CONTENDED WITH AND ACCEPTED THIS REALITY, HEP COULDN'T. IT DROVE HIM MAD.

"WHILE I SPENT MY TIME FIGURING OUT A WAY TO GET US BACK TO EARTH...



"...HEP BEGAN TO DEVISE WHAT WOULD BECOME HIS MOST DANGEROUS THEORY.

"ALL ABSURDITY IS RELATIVE.



"NO *IDEA* COULD TRULY BE ABSURD, IF YOU COULD INCREMENTALLY SHIFT REALITY ITSELF TO THE EDGE OF REASON.



"NO IDEA IS IMPOSSIBLE ON A LONG ENOUGH TIMELINE OF POSSIBILITY."

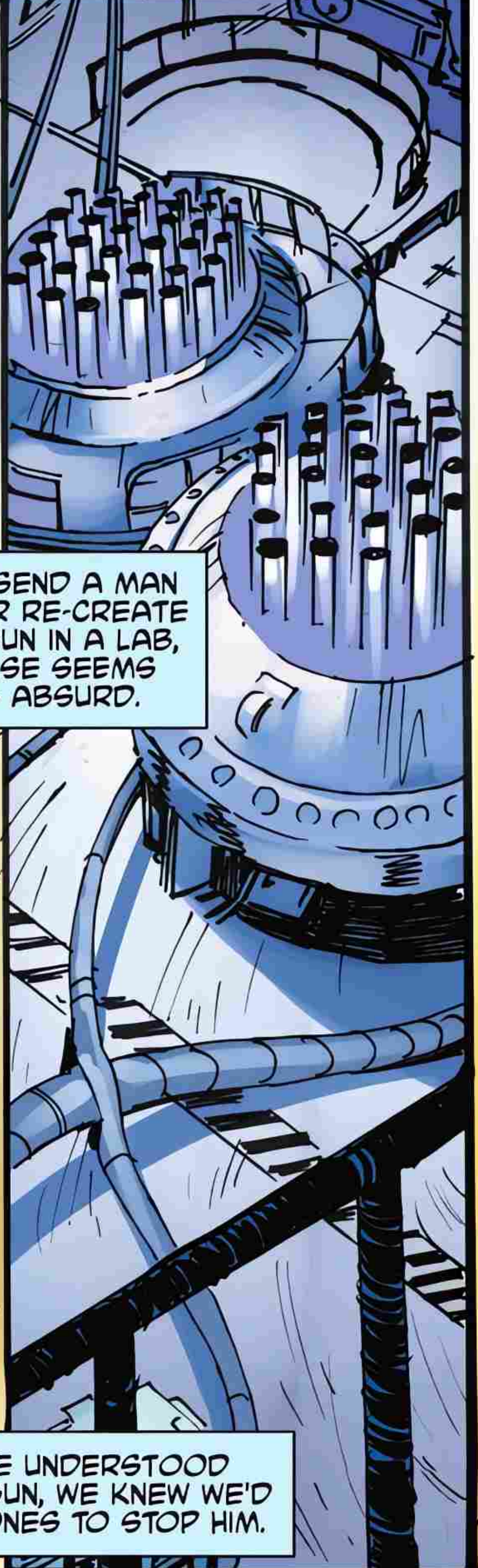
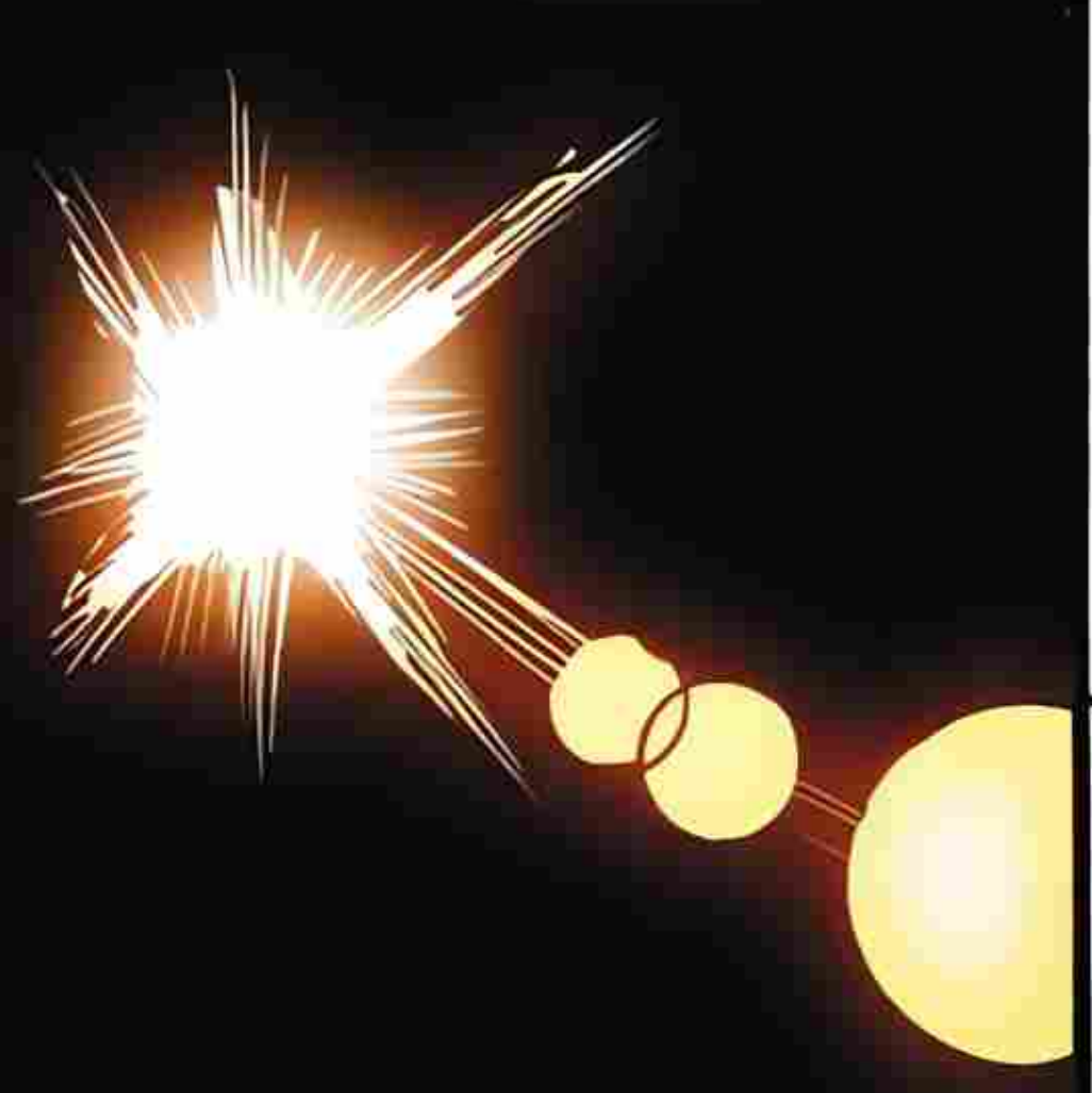


"WE MISSED IT AT FIRST. THE SIGNS OF *MEGALOMANIA*... BUT THEY HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE.

"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE SPENT IN ATNEON. MIGHT'VE BEEN YEARS.

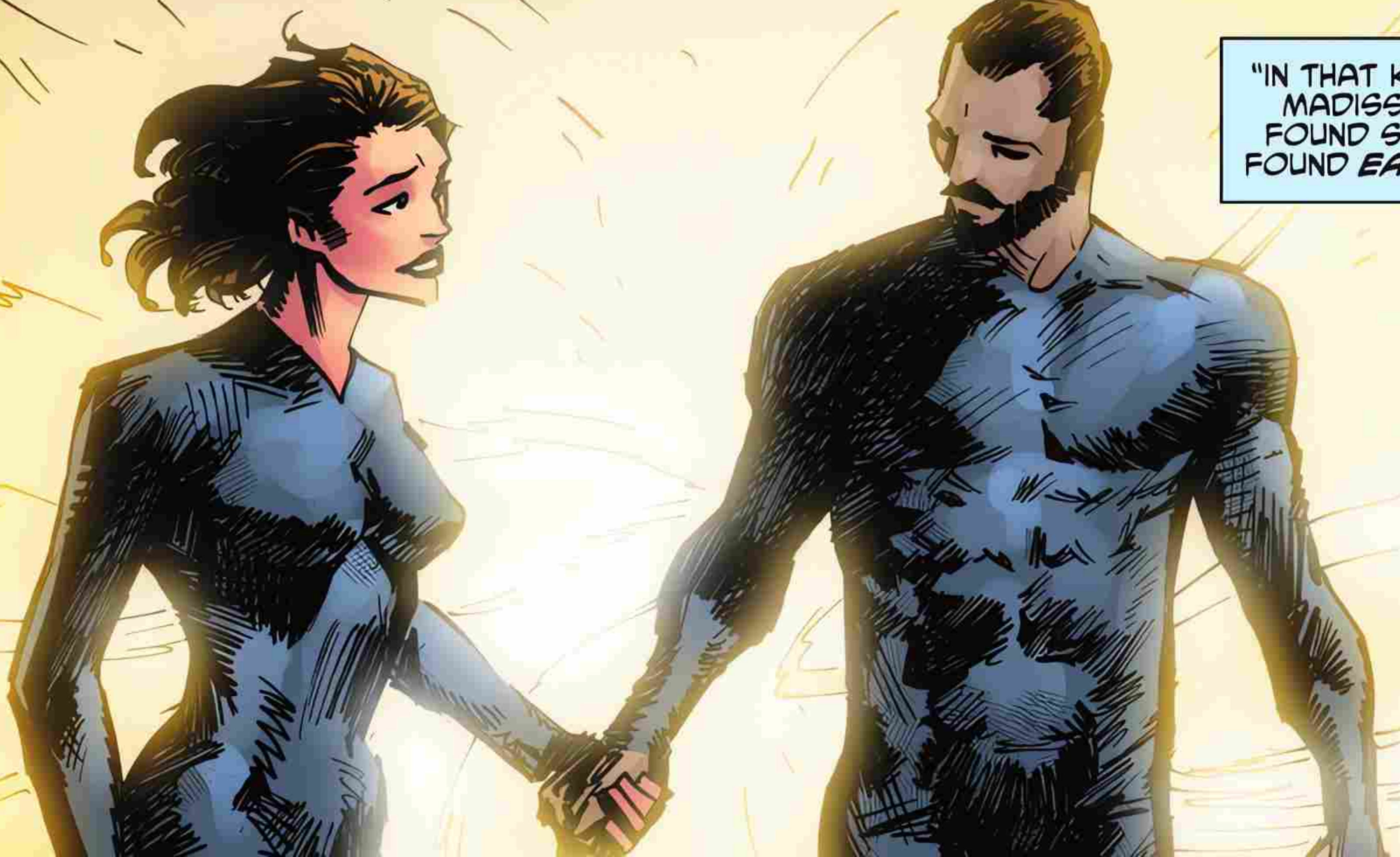
"WHILE MADISSON AND I MADE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD FORMULATING A RETURN, HEP PUSHED THE WORLD TOWARD A FUTURE OF HIS MAKING.

"SMALL ADVANCEMENTS, LEADING TO BIGGER BREAKTHROUGHS, LEADING TO PARADIGM SHIFTS.



"WHEN YOU CAN SEND A MAN TO THE MOON, OR RE-CREATE A PART OF THE SUN IN A LAB, EVERYTHING ELSE SEEMS A LITTLE LESS ABSURD.

"BY THE TIME WE UNDERSTOOD WHAT HEP HAD BEGUN, WE KNEW WE'D HAVE TO BE THE ONES TO STOP HIM.



"IN THAT KNOWLEDGE MADISSON AND I FOUND SOLACE. WE FOUND *EACH OTHER*."

"EVENTUALLY, IT WAS MY
HYPOTHESIS THAT PROVIDED
A GATEWAY OUT OF *ATNEON*.

"MADISSON WANTED TO TRY
AND TALK HEP OUT OF HIS
PLAN. BUT I WAS SKEPTICAL
AND PUT SOME
SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE.

"JUST A FEW IDEAS--
SIMPLE, PLAUSIBLE,
AND YET POWERFUL.

"IF WE FAILED TO CONVINCE HEP,
I'D NEED PEOPLE ON MY SIDE WHEN
I RETURNED TO EARTH. PEOPLE
MOTIVATED TO TAKE DOWN WHATEVER
IDEAS HEP MANIFESTED ON EARTH.

"SO I THOUGHT OF *DYNAMO*,
THE MAN WHO FELT NO PAIN
AND COULD REGENERATE
HIS BODY ENDLESSLY.

"*ARCLIGHT*--WHOSE SKIN
COULD STORE AND CONDUCT
VAST AMOUNTS OF
ELECTRICAL ENERGY.

"*SAYA, THE EVERYMAN*.
DODGE, CASTLE... YOU
GET THE IDEA.

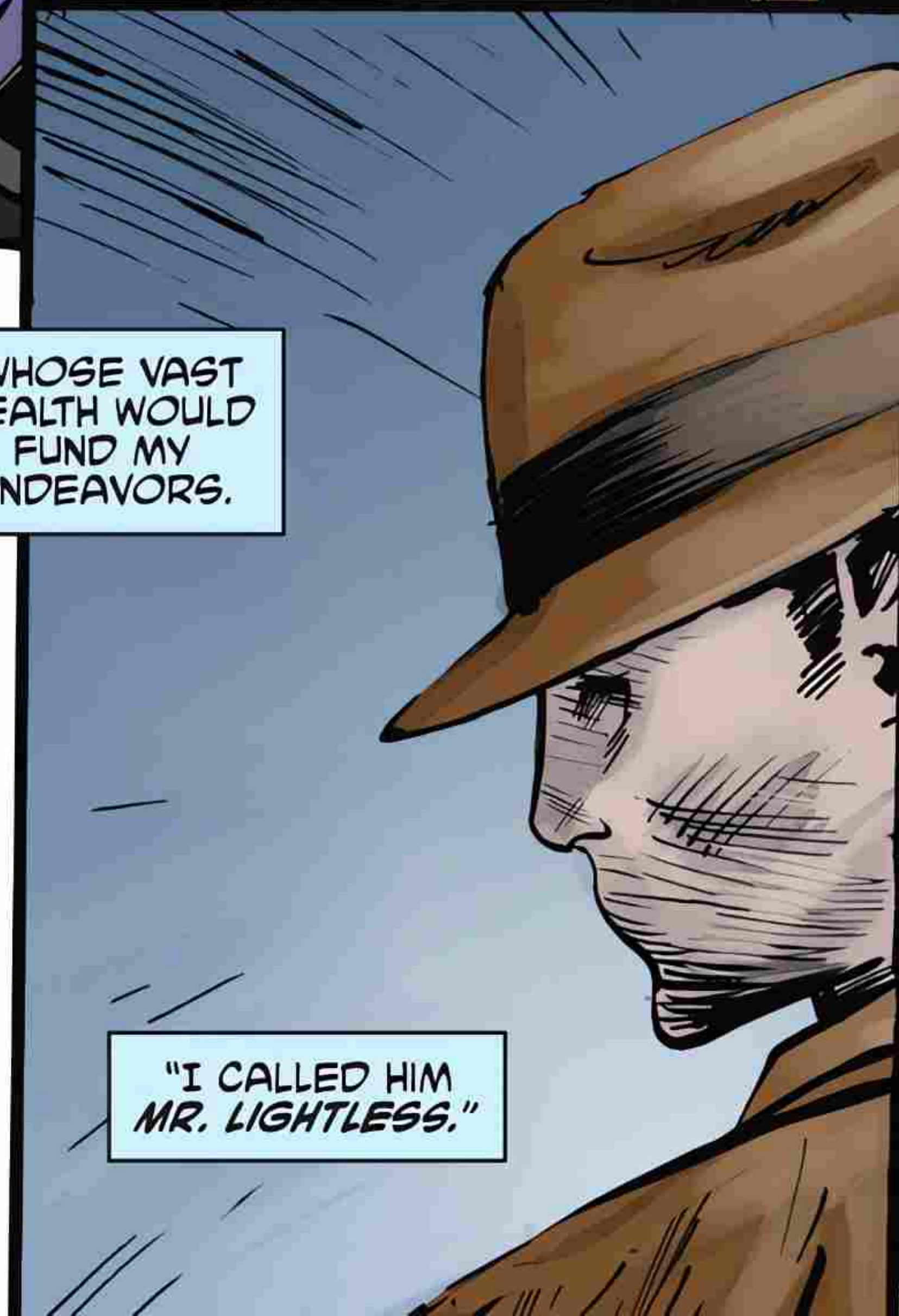


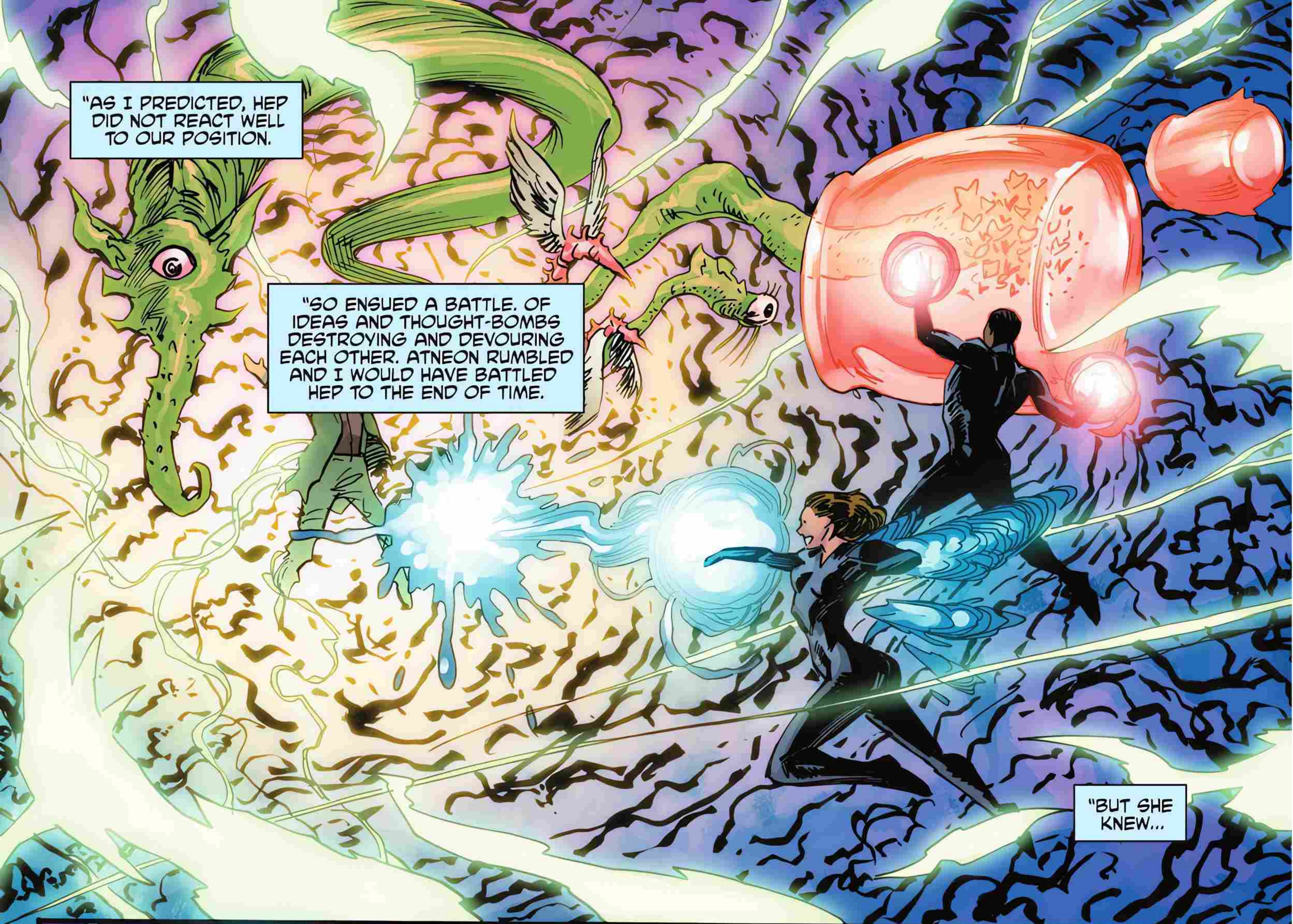
"EVERY IDEA HAD TO HAVE
PLAUSIBILITY--*REALITY*. EACH OF
YOU HAD TO HAVE REAL LIVES.

"AND AT LAST I THOUGHT OF A
MAN WHO KNEW OF EVERY MAJOR
SHIFT IN HUMAN TECHNOLOGY
TO COME. A BUSINESSMAN ARMED
WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE.

"WHOSE VAST
WEALTH WOULD
FUND MY
ENDEAVORS.

"I CALLED HIM
MR. LIGHTLESS."





"AS I PREDICTED, HEP DID NOT REACT WELL TO OUR POSITION.

"SO ENSUED A BATTLE OF IDEAS AND THOUGHT-BOMBS DESTROYING AND DEVOURING EACH OTHER. ATNEON RUMBLED AND I WOULD HAVE BATTLED HEP TO THE END OF TIME.

"BUT SHE KNEW..."



"MADISSON KNEW I WOULD HAVE LOST.

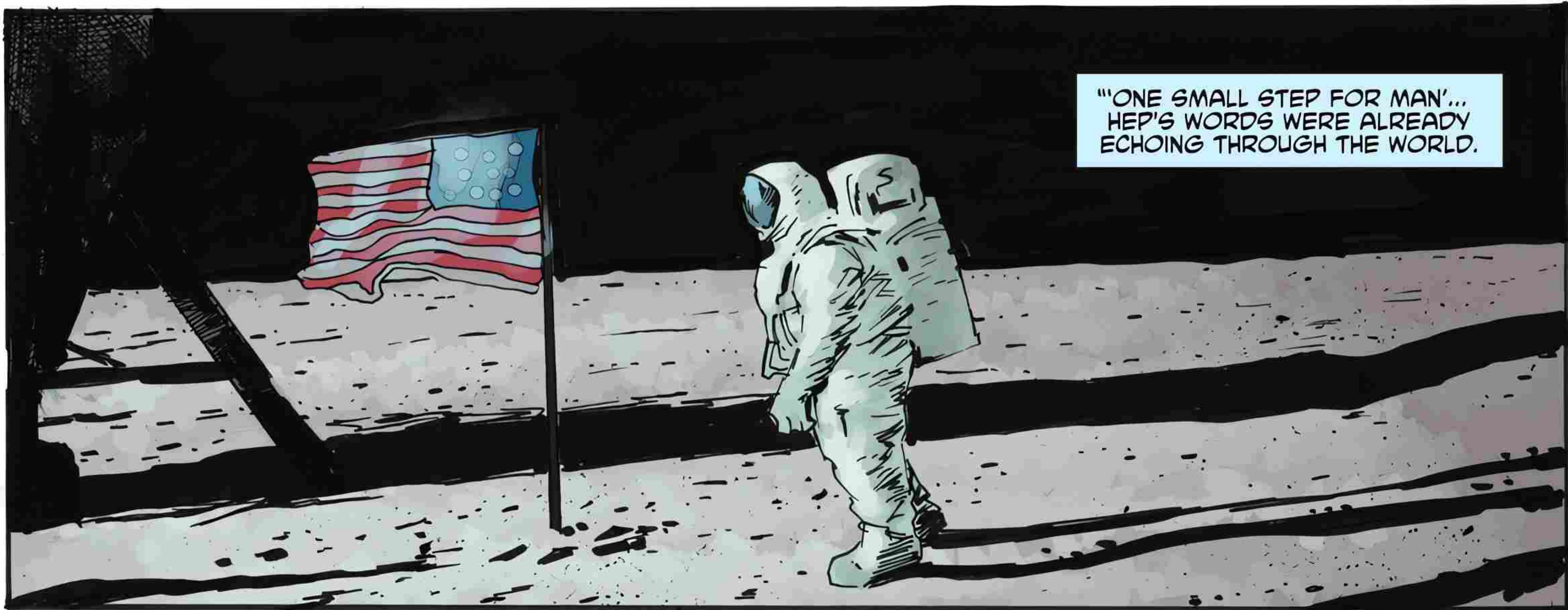
"SO SHE STAYED... AND I LEFT.



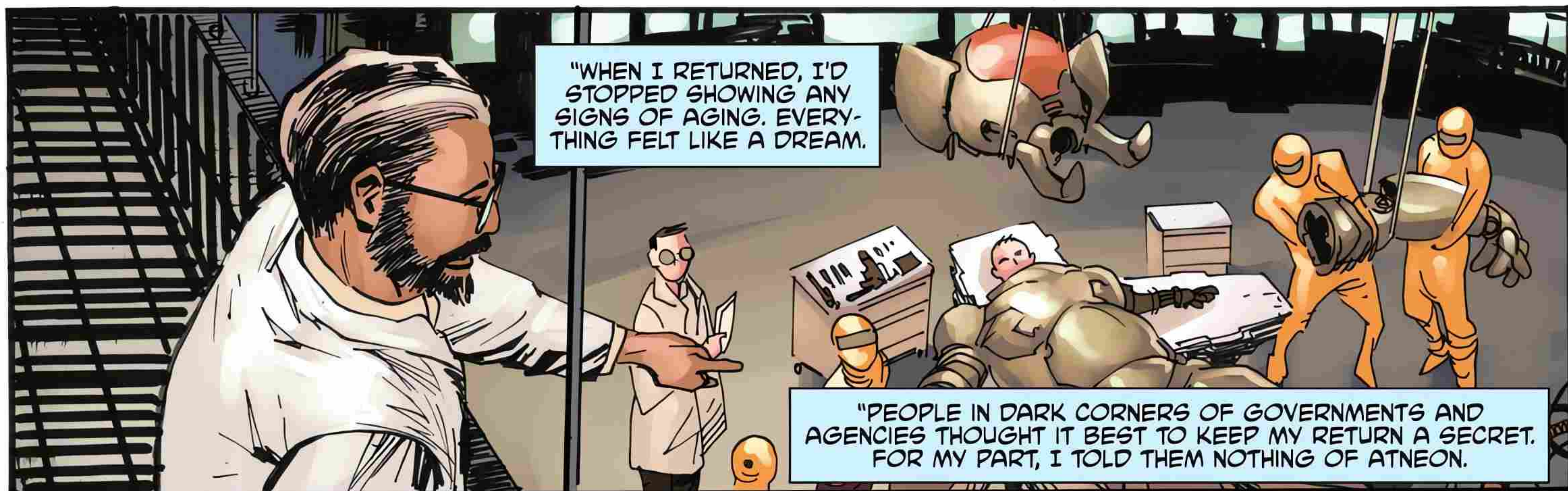
"HEP HAD BEEN TOO BUSY WITH HIS PLANS TO EVER FIGURE A WAY OUT.



"WHEN I RETURNED HOME, IT WAS 1969."

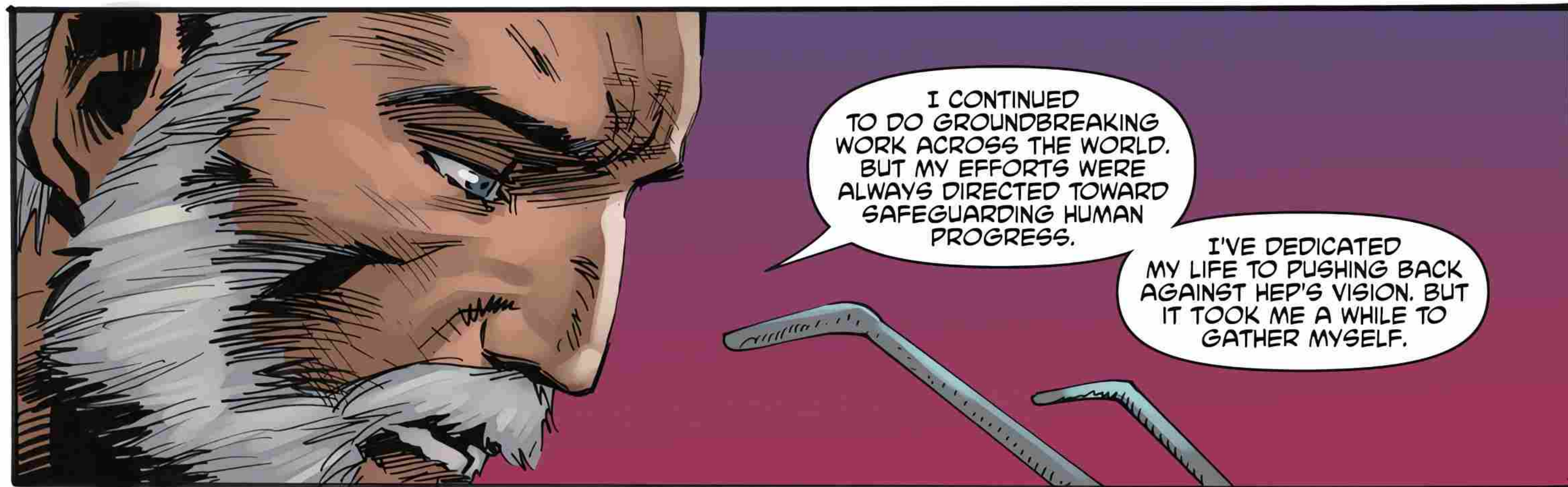


"'ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN'...
HEP'S WORDS WERE ALREADY
ECHOING THROUGH THE WORLD.



"WHEN I RETURNED, I'D
STOPPED SHOWING ANY
SIGNS OF AGING. EVERY-
THING FELT LIKE A DREAM.

"PEOPLE IN DARK CORNERS OF GOVERNMENTS AND
AGENCIES THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP MY RETURN A SECRET.
FOR MY PART, I TOLD THEM NOTHING OF ATNEON.



I CONTINUED
TO DO GROUNDBREAKING
WORK ACROSS THE WORLD.
BUT MY EFFORTS WERE
ALWAYS DIRECTED TOWARD
SAFEGUARDING HUMAN
PROGRESS.

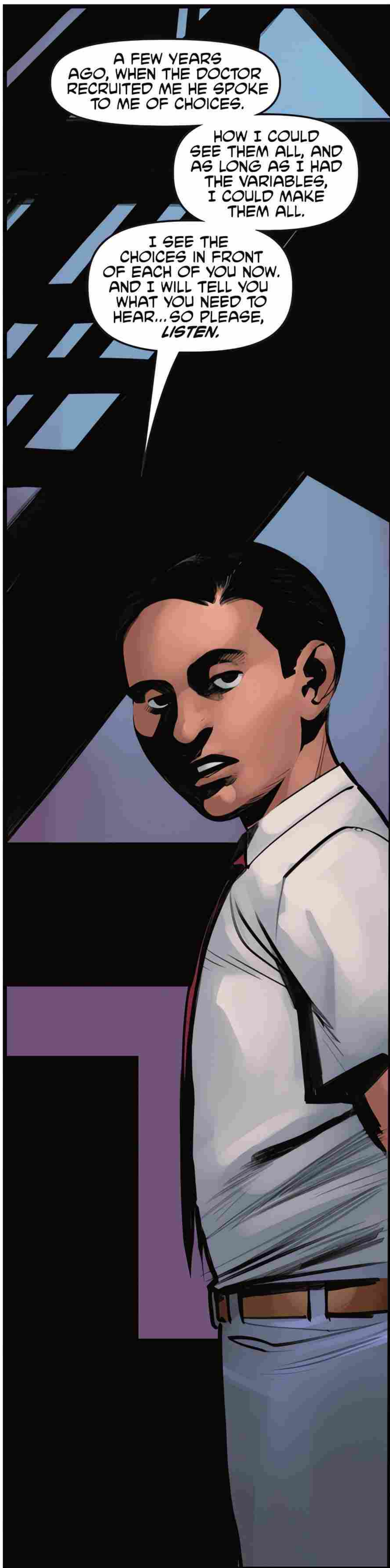
I'VE DEDICATED
MY LIFE TO PUSHING BACK
AGAINST HEP'S VISION. BUT
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO
GATHER MYSELF.



TO
GATHER
YOU.

I WOULD
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HONESTY, DOCTOR. BUT
YOU'LL FORGIVE THE
ABSENT SENTIMENT.

I HAVE A...
CONDITION.



A FEW YEARS
AGO, WHEN THE DOCTOR
RECRUITED ME HE SPOKE
TO ME OF CHOICES.

HOW I COULD
SEE THEM ALL, AND
AS LONG AS I HAD
THE VARIABLES,
I COULD MAKE
THEM ALL.

I SEE THE
CHOICES IN FRONT
OF EACH OF YOU NOW.
AND I WILL TELL YOU
WHAT YOU NEED TO
HEAR... SO PLEASE,
LISTEN.



ARCLIGHT,
YOU WANT TO
QUIT. YOU FEEL
BETRAYED.

NO \$%#&...
YOU MUST BE
A GENIUS OR
SOMETHING.

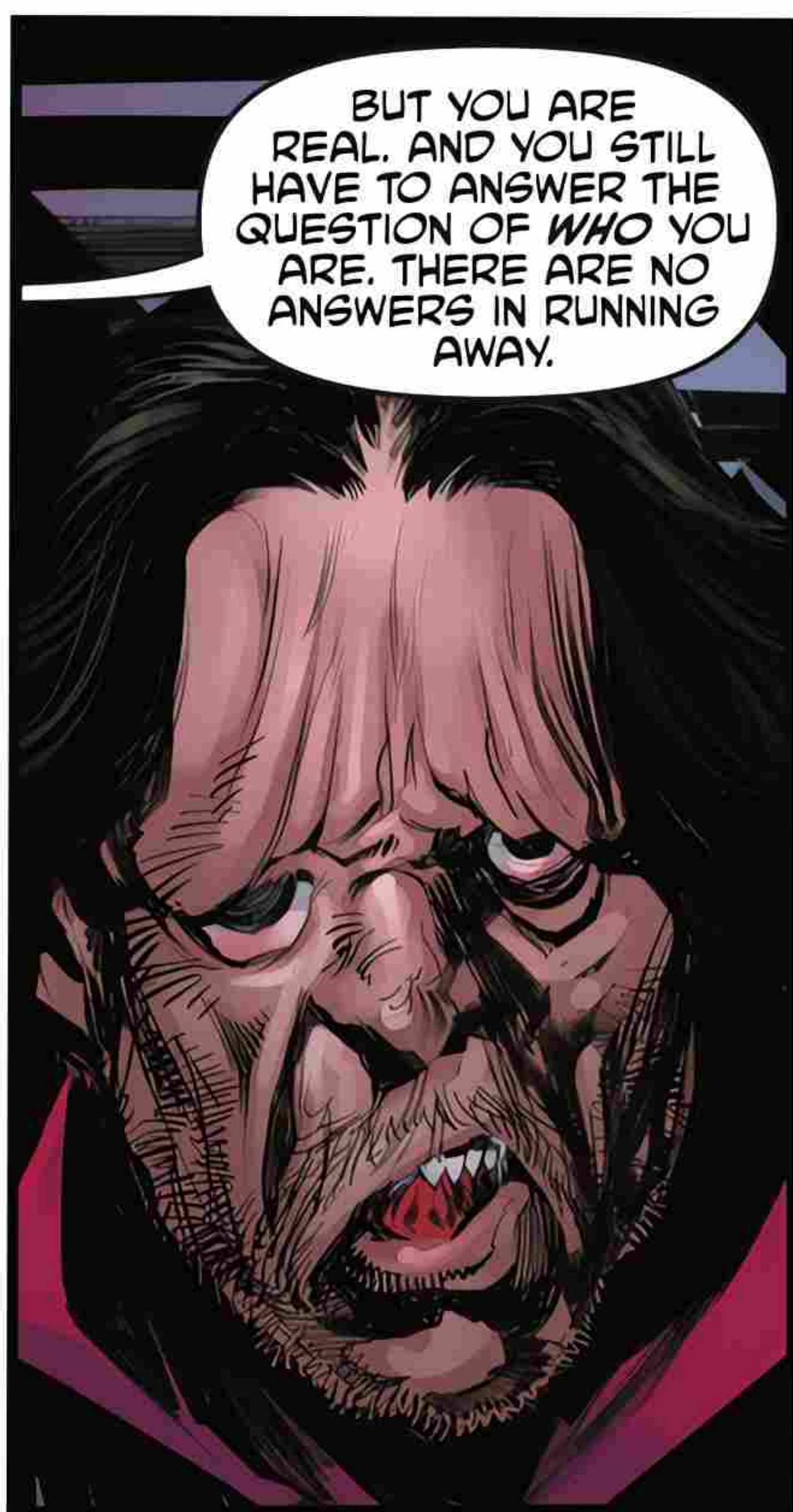


THE DOCTOR
MIGHT HAVE MADE
UP YOUR LIFE IN HIS
HEAD. BUT DOES THAT
MAKE YOUR LOSS
ANY LESS REAL?



SAYA... YOU'VE
ALWAYS WANTED TO
KNOW WHO YOU REALLY
ARE. WHERE YOU
CAME FROM.

THE DOCTOR
MIGHT HAVE
TAKEN YOUR PAST
FROM YOU.

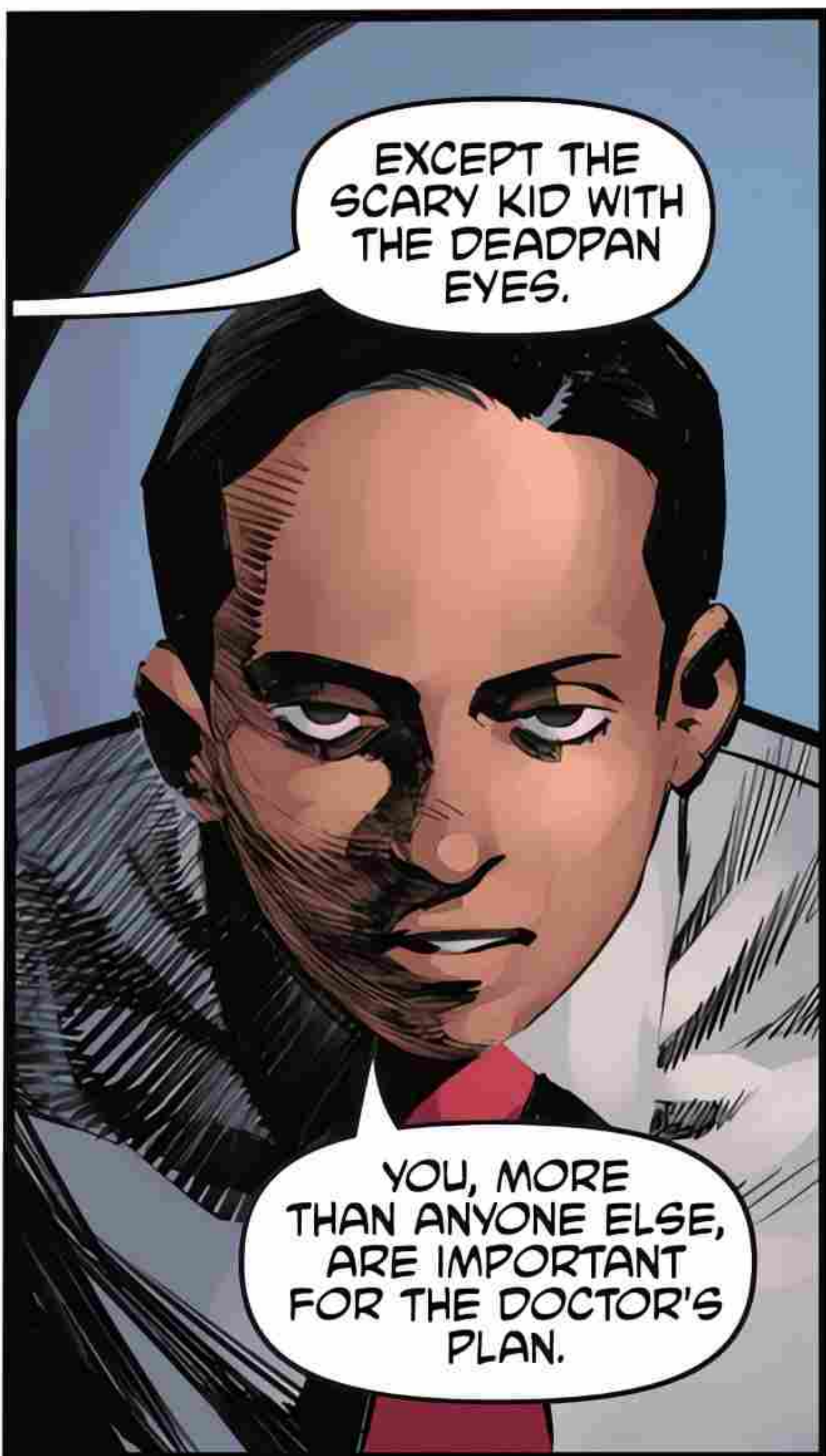


BUT YOU ARE
REAL. AND YOU STILL
HAVE TO ANSWER THE
QUESTION OF *WHO* YOU
ARE. THERE ARE NO
ANSWERS IN RUNNING
AWAY.



DODGE... YOU
HATE THE DOCTOR
FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS
GOING TO STAY.

YOU THINK
OF US AS YOUR
FAMILY NOW.



EXCEPT THE
SCARY KID WITH
THE DEADPAN
EYES.

YOU, MORE
THAN ANYONE ELSE,
ARE IMPORTANT
FOR THE DOCTOR'S
PLAN.



PLAN?
THE VIGIL IS
DONE.
OVER.

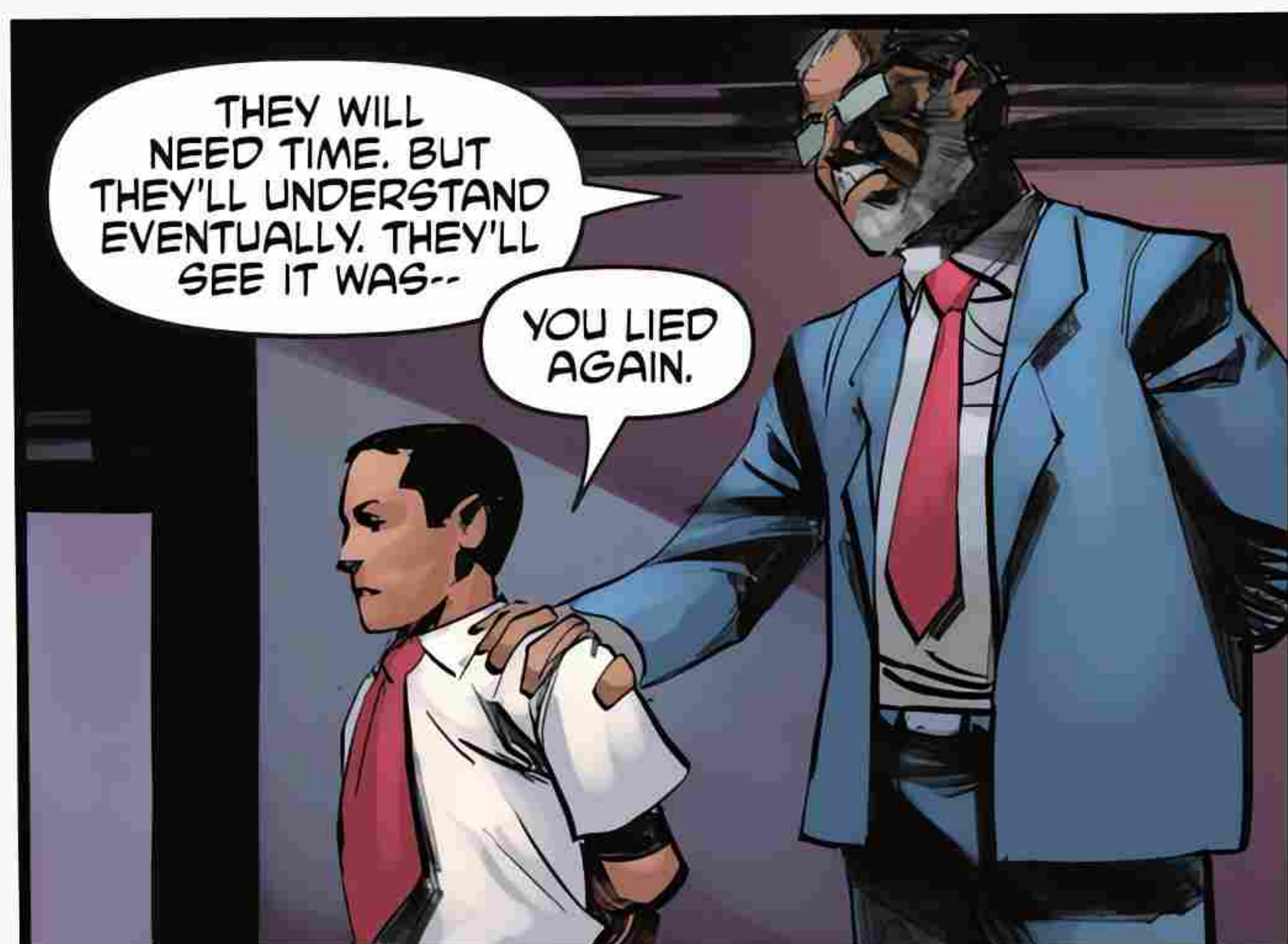
MAYBE...

BUT
FEISTUS
HEP WON'T
THINK SO.

IF I WERE HIM,
I WOULD STRIKE
NOW. WHEN WE
ARE UNTETHERED...
WEAKENED.

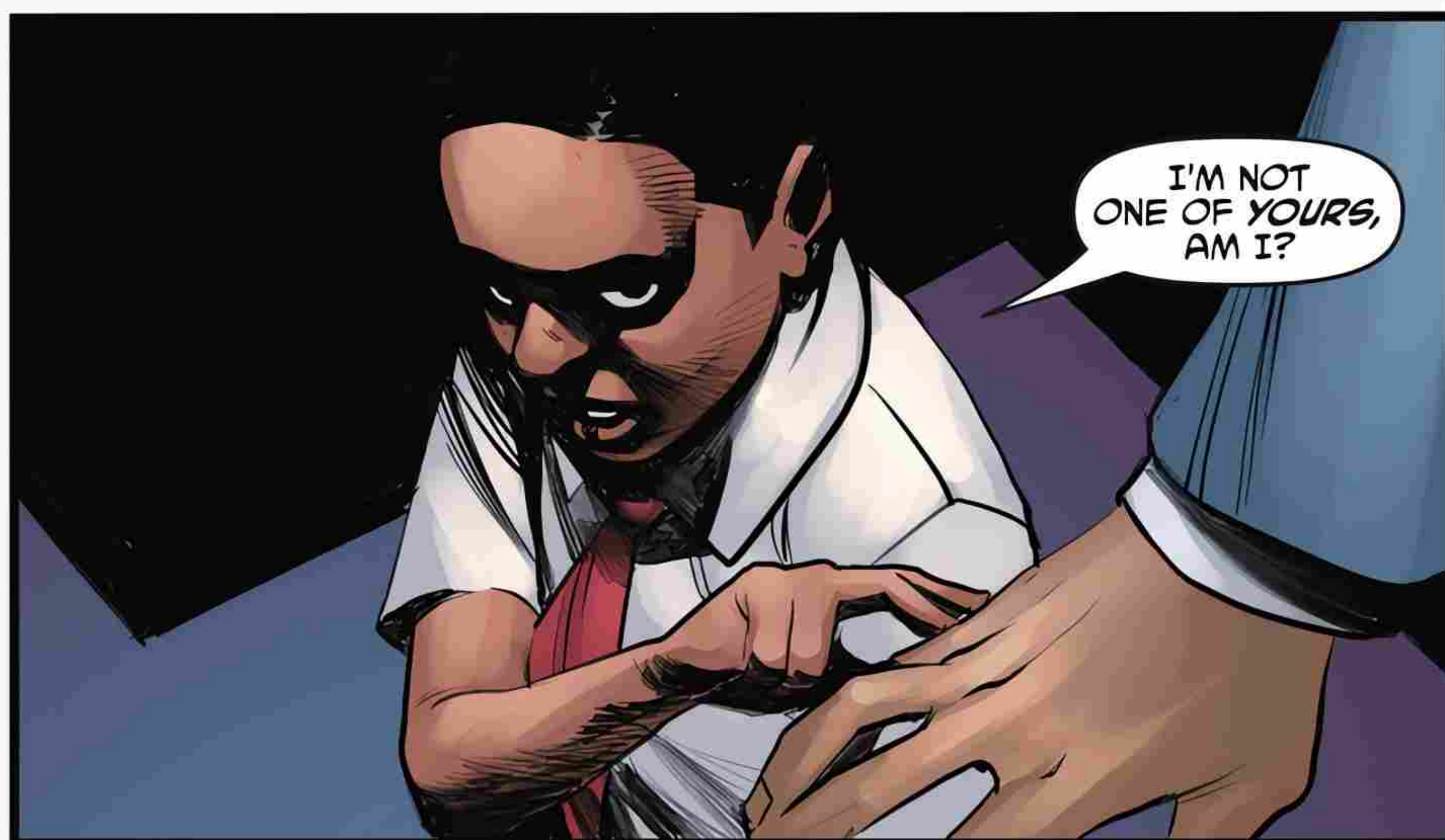


%\$#* YOU,
KID. YOU TWO
MAKE A GREAT
TEAM. I'M OUT.



THEY WILL
NEED TIME. BUT
THEY'LL UNDERSTAND
EVENTUALLY. THEY'LL
SEE IT WAS--

YOU LIED
AGAIN.



I'M NOT
ONE OF YOURS,
AM I?



I'VE CONSIDERED
IT, AND IT MAKES
SENSE NOW...



"...I'M ONE
OF HIS."

NOW, I IMAGINE,
THE TRUTH WILL HAVE
RIPPED THEM APART,
MR. WALL.

I THINK IT IS
TIME FOR YOU
TO GO TO WORK.
DESTROY THEM,
ONE AT
A TIME.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

JUSTICE LEAGUE

VS. GODZILLA VS. KONG



Written by
BRIAN BUCCELLATO

Art by
CHRISTIAN DUCE

7 ISSUES
The Battle Begins
in October

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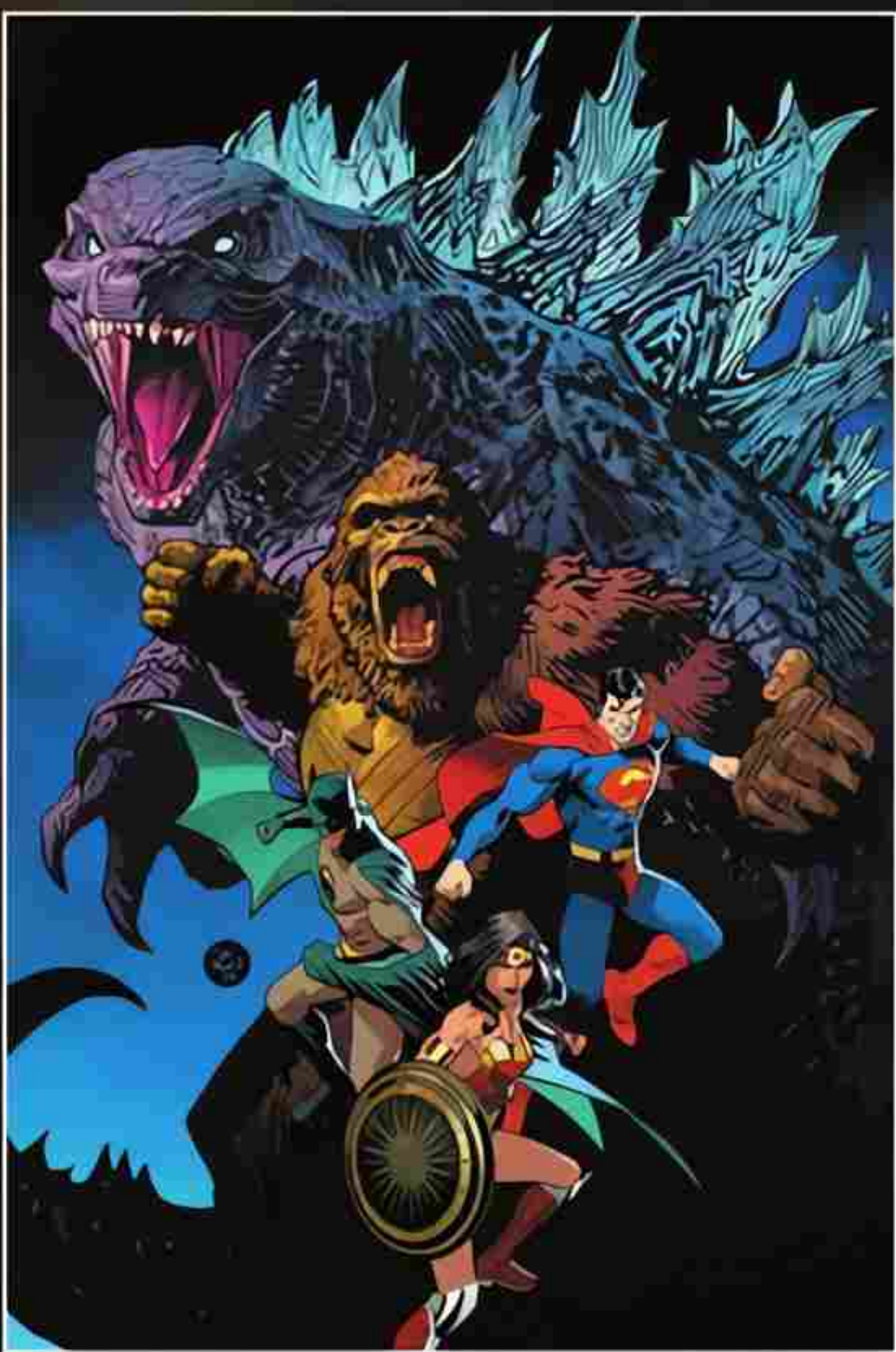
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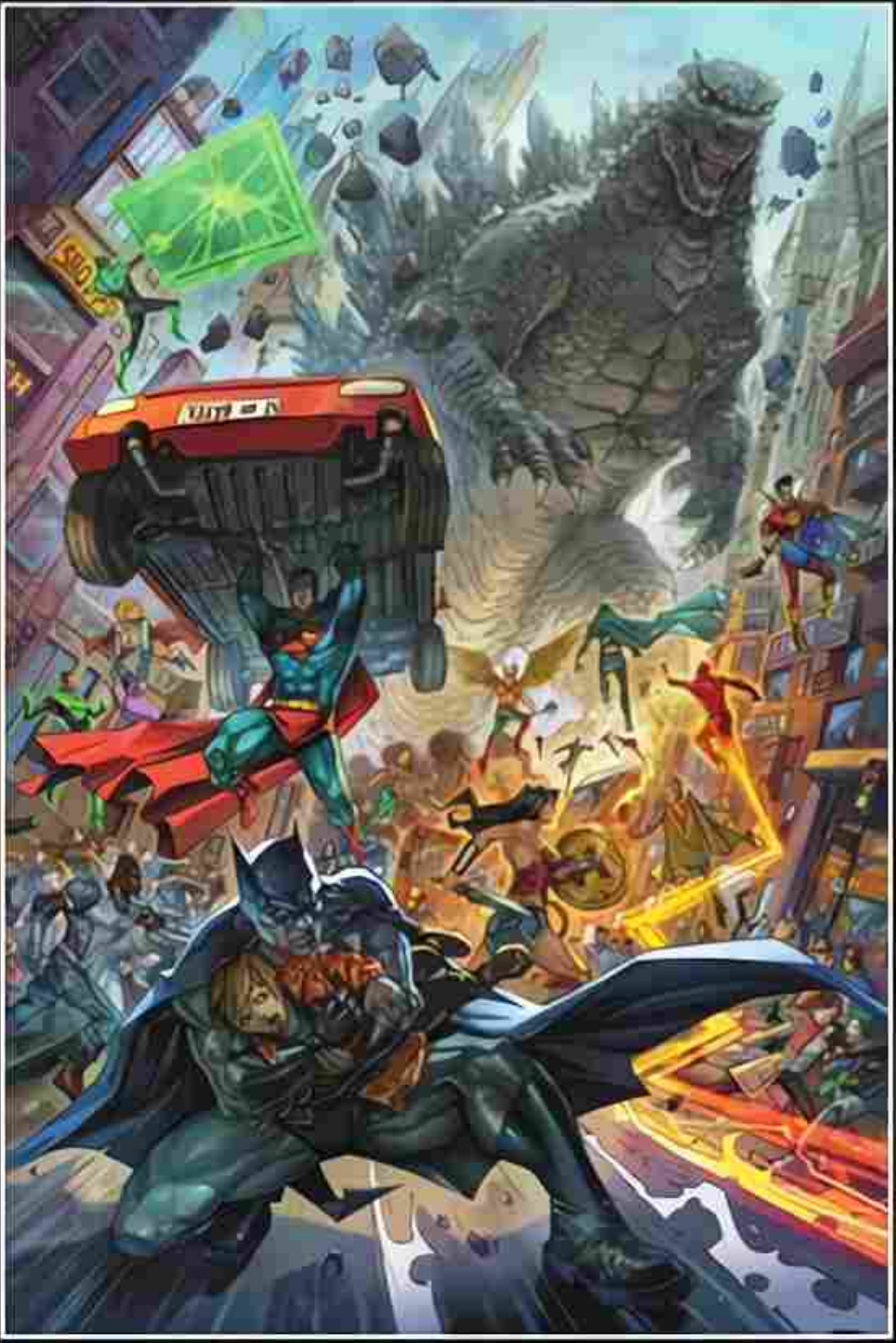
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JIM LEE and
SCOTT WILLIAMS



1:100 Variant Cover by
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SCOTT WILLIAMS

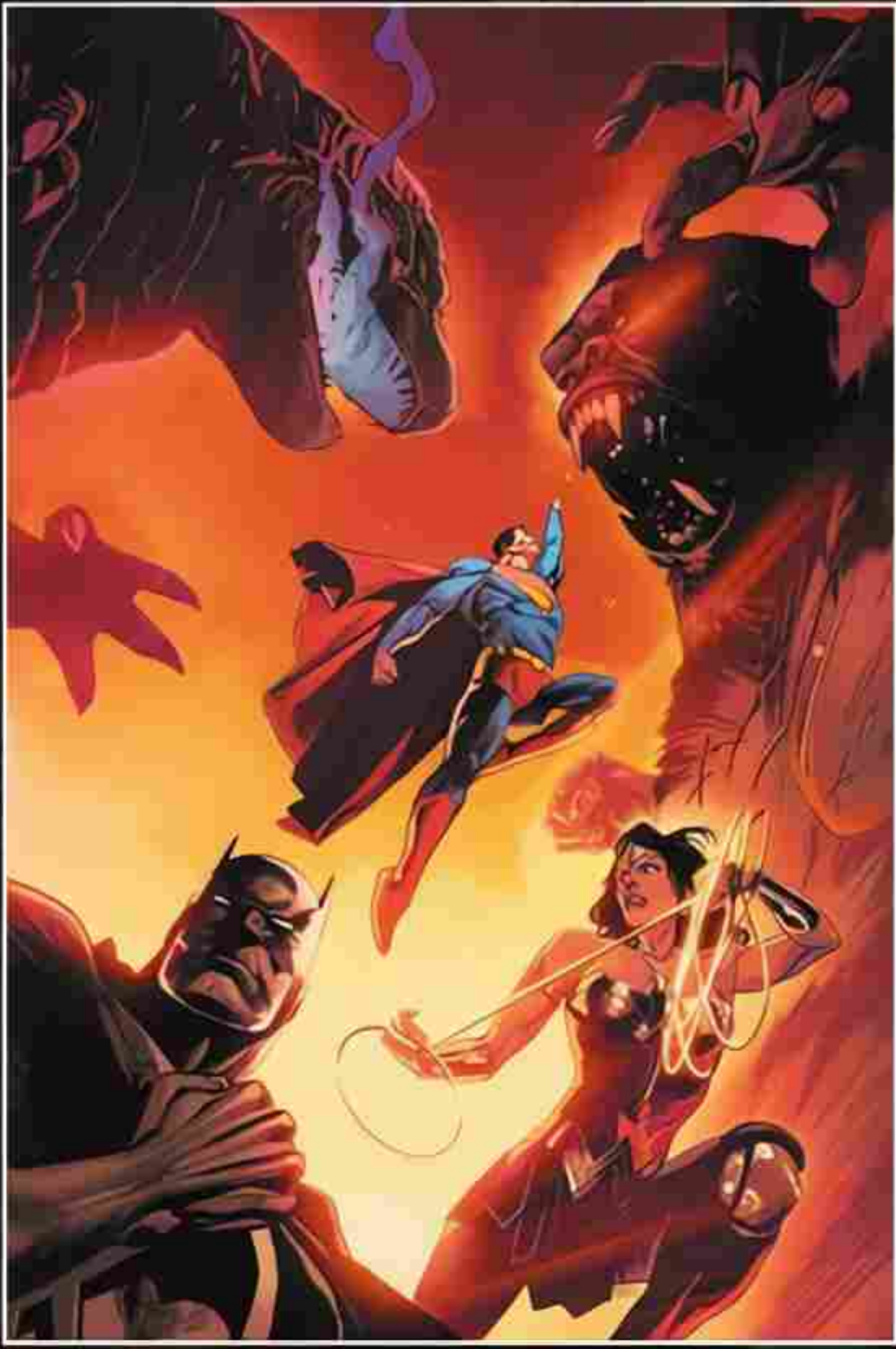


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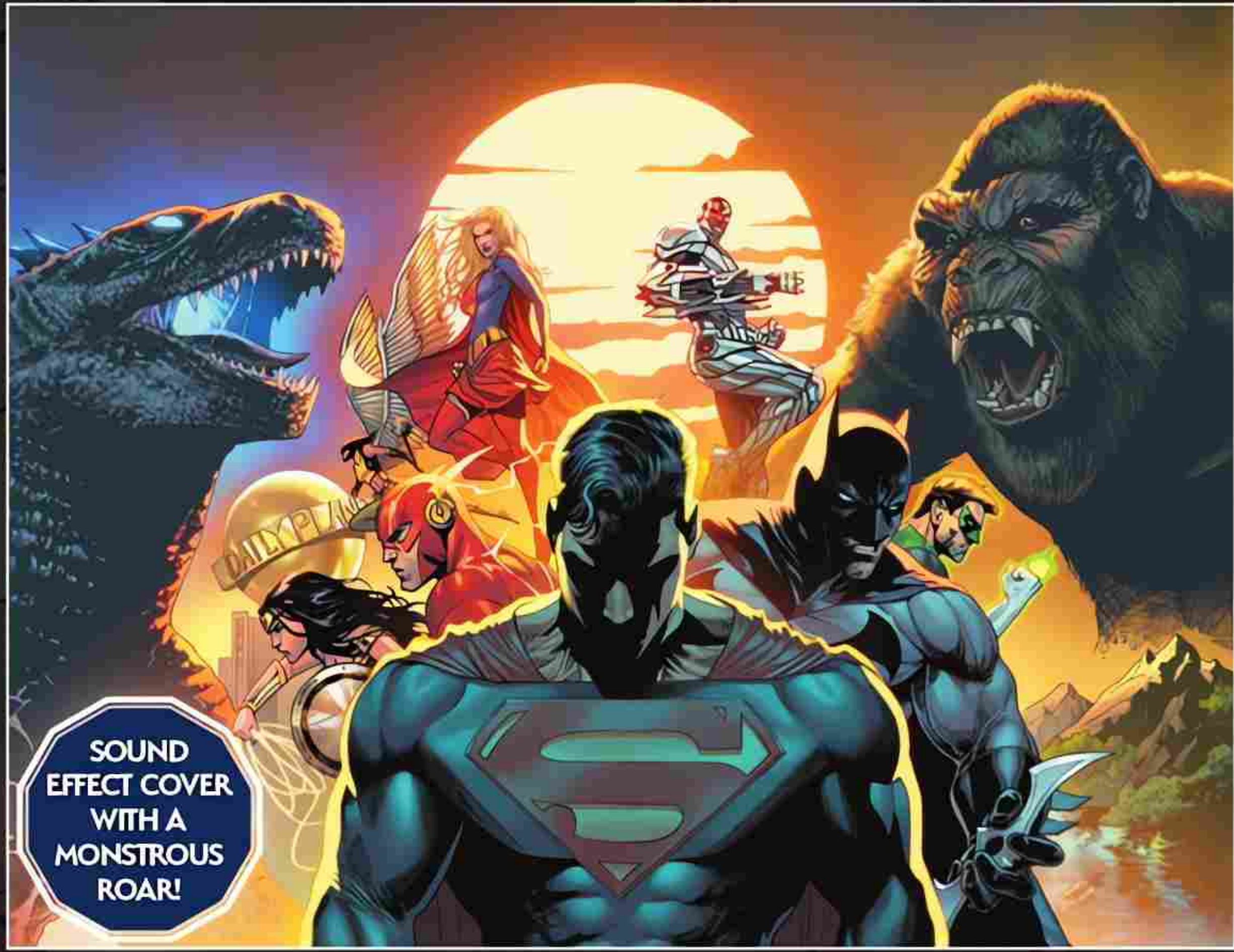


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ALAN QUAH

**CELEBRATE THIS
EARTH-SHATTERING
CROSSOVER WITH
THESE COVERS**



Foil Variant Cover by
RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE



Godzilla ROAR and Kong ROAR SFX Variant Covers by
CHRISTIAN DUCE

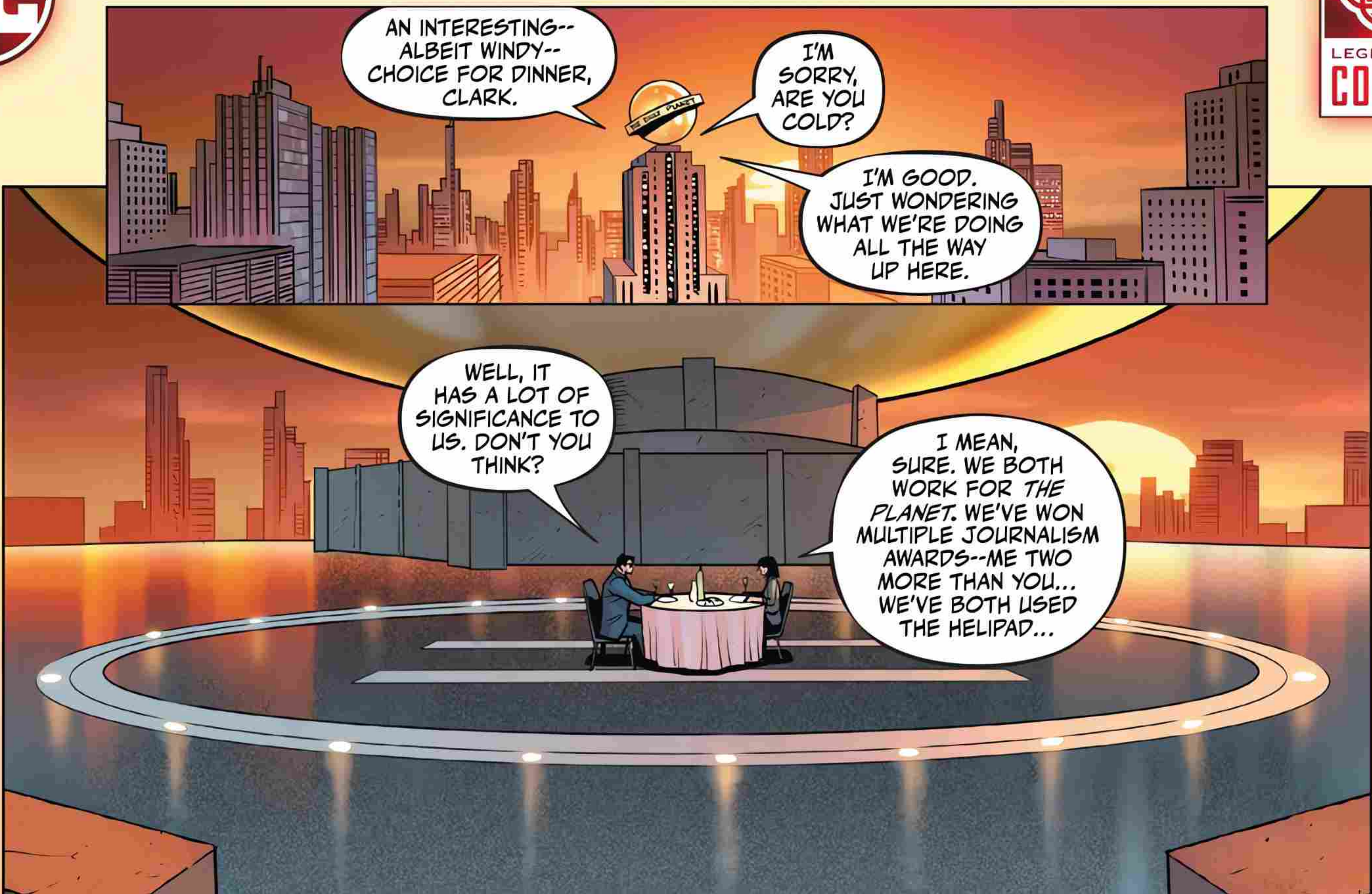


Main Cover by DREW JOHNSON



**JUSTICE
LEAGUE vs. GODZILLA
vs. KONG**









TWELVE HOURS AGO.



I MEAN, THIS IS IMPRESSIVE. EVEN FOR HIM...



IT'S LIKE HE'S LITERALLY TRYING TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD AT ONCE.



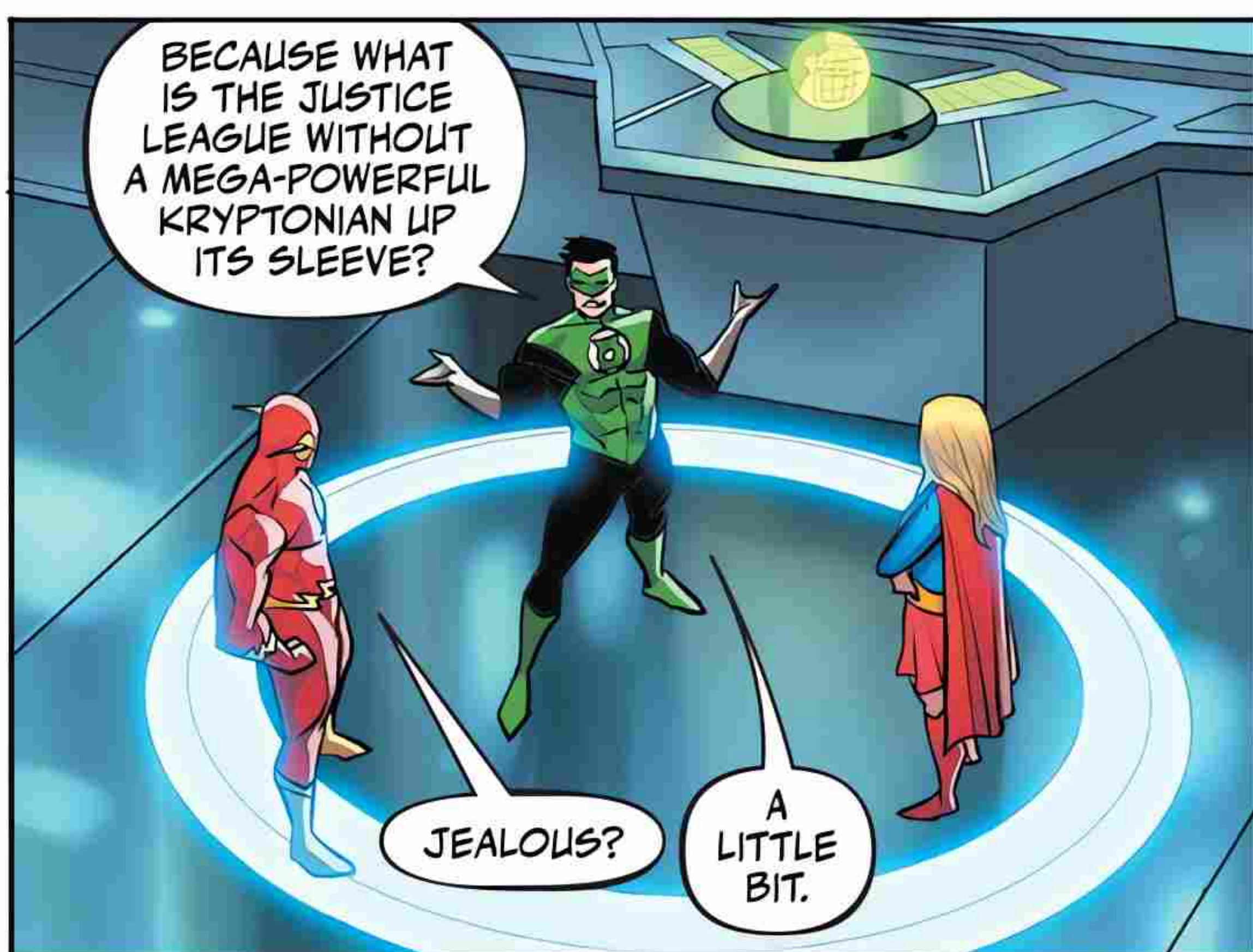
MAKES YOU WONDER WHY HE DOESN'T GIVE SUPER-SUPER EFFORT ALL OF THE TIME.

IT'S NOT SUSTAINABLE, HAL...



BELIEVE ME, AS A GUY WHO CAN PRETTY MUCH BE TWO PLACES AT ONCE...NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU DO AND HOW HARD YOU TRY...YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL. THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH TIME.

NOT EVEN FOR THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?





DAWN OF DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON



THE FLASH

All year long, DC has reinvigorated its heroes and villains across the DC Universe with the Dawn of DC storytelling initiative—and Wally West gets in on the fun this September with *The Flash* #1 from the superstar team of writer Si Spurrier and artist Mike Deodato Jr., a fresh start for one of pop culture's most iconic heroes!

With this new era for *The Flash* comes new allies, new enemies, and mysterious new developments with Wally's connection to the Speed Force—along with a fresh take on classic villains like Mirror Master, as well as Wally's family unit of wife Linda Park and their super-powered twins, Jai and Irey.

That's a lot to get excited about—and to get *even more* excited, we opened up Deodato's sketchbook to see the comics legend's character designs for the new series.

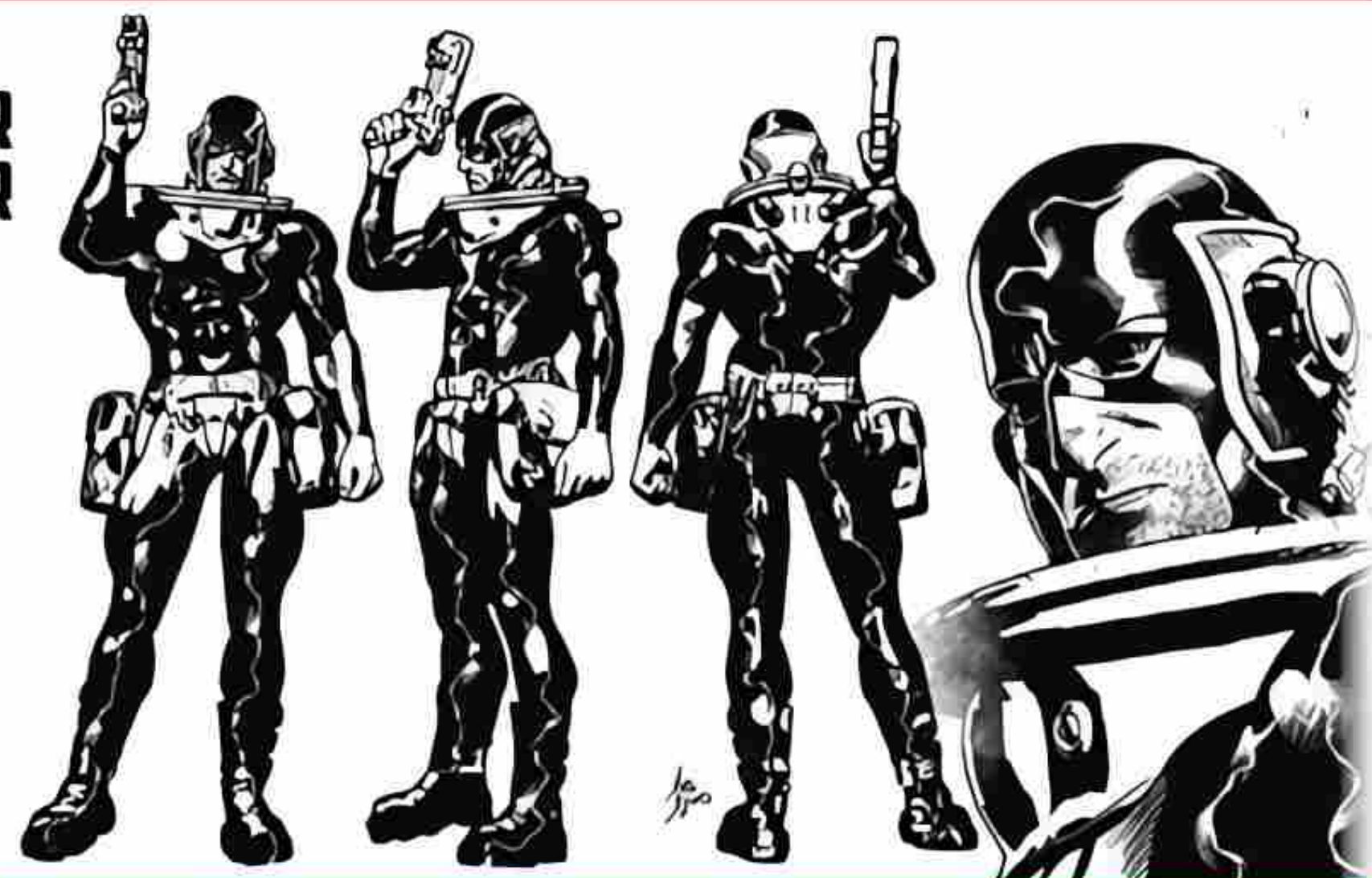


DON'T MISS *THE FLASH* #1, ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER!

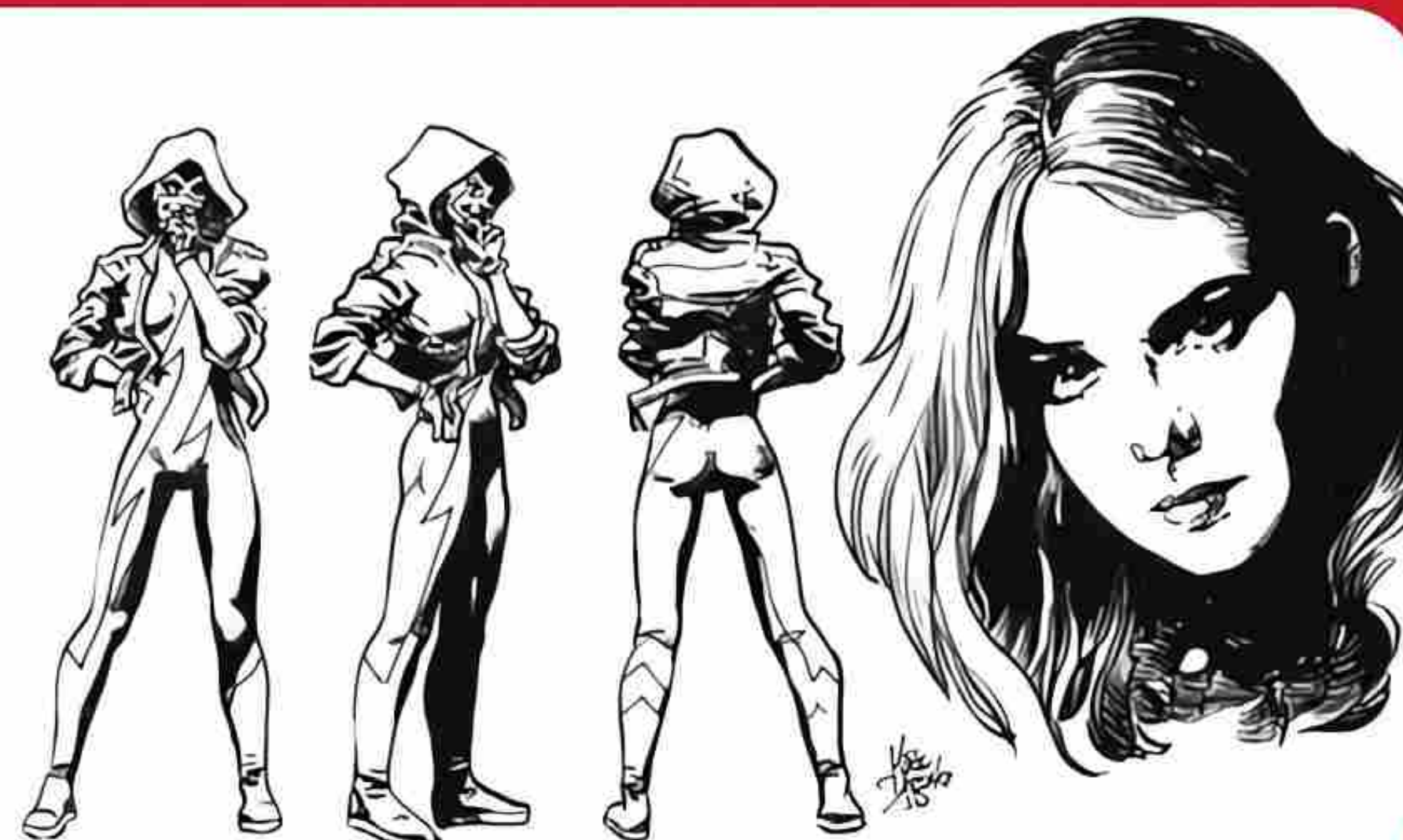
WALLY WEST



MIRROR MASTER



IREY WEST



JAI WEST



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